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July 2006

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Starting 15 June, if you visit *Internet Genealogy's* website you will be able to download a complete, EXTRA issue of the magazine, with new articles — absolutely FREE! This issue will ONLY be available from our website, it will NOT be printed. Why are we doing this?

Internet Genealogy has been received extremely well. We have had excellent reviews and have become a major player in the genealogy field in only a few months. But we feel we have only scratched the surface of the potential audience. How do we reach these people? We believe the best way is to allow people to read a complete issue of *Internet Genealogy* — this allows them to judge what we are offering. We have run out of the promotional copies that we set aside. It hardly seemed fair to our early subscribers to make the first issue available free after so many of you had paid for it.

So, we have prepared an all-new EXTRA issue of *Internet Genealogy* which will act as a “thank you” for existing subscribers. We hope you will tell your friends about this so that they can check us out. It will also allow us to promote a copy of the magazine to anyone who cares to visit our website.

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Internet
GENEALOGY

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Starting 15 June

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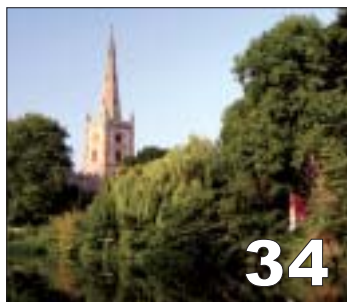
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What to Look Forward to in the August/September Issue:

Internet GENEALOGY

CASE STUDY

SAM FIGLAR

"A confirmed bachelor who froze to death by the side of the road after passing out from drinking too much alcohol. His body was buried in a pauper's grave". These were all of the details Lisa A. Alzo had to work with when she began researching one of her "elusive" ancestors, her grandfather's brother, Samuel Figlar. Using only Internet resources, Alzo describes how she conducted her research.



SPECIAL ISSUE! IRISH GENEALOGY

Irish genealogy presents special problems for the researcher, but now more and more records are becoming available — many of them online.

We have asked three authors to contribute to this special issue. **Kyle Betit** will describe the digitization of Irish church records, **Sue Meates** will introduce 25 Irish websites, some well-known, others which you probably have never heard about, **Cindy Thomson** will show us how to find out about Irish History on the web.

PLUS

- War Graves Online
- The Digitization Revolution
- City Directories
- Five Effective Ways to Network
- Using Online Library Catalogs

Articles mentioned here are planned for the next issue. However, circumstances may affect the final content.



Genealogy Today say they are committed to keeping genealogists informed of the latest resources and research techniques. Year after year, this site has expanded the information in its searchable databases and local genealogy directory and are adding 10,000 records a week; Elizabeth Lapointe investigates.

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES ONLINE

Genealogical society libraries boast impressive collections of rare family histories, county histories, unpublished gravestone transcriptions, church records and family Bible records. Now many of these resources may be accessed online; Rick Crume explains.

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Halvor Moorshead
Editor & Publisher

Thanks!

THE PAST THREE MONTHS have been very exciting for those of us working on *Internet Genealogy*. By the time the first issue went to press (in early February), we had a few encouraging signs that there was a good market for our new magazine but nothing prepared us for the flood of subscriptions and kind remarks that were to come! As this issue goes to press, we have received almost 7,500 subscriptions. We had set aside a couple of thousand copies of the first issue of *Internet Genealogy* for promotion purposes at conventions and shows, but almost all of these have had to be used to meet subscriber orders.

In addition, the feedback that we have been receiving from readers is most encouraging. We have also learned a fair bit about the kind of people who are reading the magazine — some of this has surprised us.

We had not anticipated the length of time that readers have been conducting their genealogy. A staggering 93 percent have been researching for five or more years and 35 percent tell us that they have been at it for 20 or more years!

ACTING ON YOUR SUGGESTIONS:

Links to URLs

Several people suggested that we publish the web addresses on a separate page in the magazine, or printed such links in color. We think we have done even better — our website, www.internet-genealogy.com, now includes a section listing the links for each article so that people do not have to retype these (and also allows us to update any broken links).

Paid/Free Database

A number of readers have asked us to identify websites that require a payment or are subscription services. This is easy to do with sites such as Ancestry.com, but there are now many sites which are not so easy to classify. MyTrees is normally a subscription site, but you can get some free access by providing data; others, notably British sites, make no charge for searching their database, but **do** charge for viewing and printing the original documents. We should mention one thing: many people do not appreciate just how many libraries have subscriptions to commercial genealogical databases.

Extra Issue

Our success is leading to at least one major benefit for our readers. As we mention above, we have used almost all of the copies that were set aside for promotion purposes. Reprinting the magazine was a possibility, but that is a very expensive undertaking. Instead we have decided to publish an extra issue of *Internet Genealogy*, but only on our website. This issue will feature a complete lineup of all-new articles, many by the same authors as in the regular magazine. We are making this available to everyone! Consider it a "thank-you" to those of you who have already subscribed, but it will also be available to anyone. Please tell your friends about this. We can also promote this online issue as an example of what *Internet Genealogy* is like.



Halvor Moorshead

Halvor Moorshead
Publisher and Editor
Internet Genealogy
publisher@moorshead.com

www.internet-genealogy.com

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PUBLISHER AND EDITOR:

Halvor Moorshead

publisher@moorshead.com

EDITORIAL ASSISTANTS:

Marc Skulnick

marc@moorshead.com

Victoria King

victoria@moorshead.com

SPECIAL PROJECTS:

Ed Zapletal

edward@moorshead.com

CIRCULATION MANAGER:

Rick Cree

rick@moorshead.com

ADVERTISING SERVICES:

Jeannette Cox

jeannette@moorshead.com

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Net Notes

CENTER FOR FAMILY HISTORY AND GENEALOGY AT BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY

<http://familyhistory.byu.edu/>

I DIDN'T NEED to spend too long in the world of genealogy before I learned how important Brigham Young University — and its hometown of Salt Lake City, Utah, for that matter — are to the field.

At some point, you may even travel there yourself to pursue your research. In the meantime, the Center for Family History and Genealogy (CFHG) website, which works, in part, to “utilize BYU resources to simplify the finding of ancestors and the discovery of the world in which they lived”, offers one virtual location to visit. Like me, you'll probably choose to stay awhile, too.

The website's “Publications” section is definitely worth viewing, with two particularly valuable online features. First is the Newsletter, published every

when I last checked, none were available at the CFHG.) Since this does not appear to be a subscription newsletter, I've bookmarked it on my computer and (try to remember to) recheck it each month.

The second is the *BYU Family Historian*, an annual online academic journal. Here you'll find more in-depth research/scholarly

instructional resources you'll find the Introduction to Family History Lessons, <http://261.byu.edu>.

Accessed best through Internet Explorer 6.0 or better, these lessons teach fundamentals of family history research. Each lesson includes an assignment so you can begin to apply what you've learned. And the lessons extend to technology instruction: you'll

receive guidance on how to use FamilySearch Internet, www.familysearch.org, the Windows-based Personal Ancestral File (PAF) program and more. Possibly because another part of the CFHG mission is to “support the training of students for life-long temple and family history service”, a set of Teaching Outlines also accompanies these lessons.

Also worth checking out — and easily found on the Home Page — are a few online tutorials (which do seem to require very recent versions of Internet Explorer for maximum benefit; I wasn't able, for example, to access a PowerPoint presentation on “Finding German Ancestors”) and an extensive set of country-specific research guides. Of course, like any site worth its salt, this one also includes a collection of recommended web links.

— Erika Dreifus Ph.D.

I didn't need to spend too long in genealogy before I learned how important BYU is to the field.



month except August and December. The newsletter's stated purpose is “to provide quick, up-to-date news about products, events, and websites relating to family history.” Formatted as a downloadable PDF document, the newsletter also lists job and volunteer opportunities. (Job listings — at the CFHG and elsewhere — are also posted within the site's “Employment” section, though

articles. The current (Fall 2005) issue includes: “Documenting Victims of The Holocaust: The Mokotowskis of Otwock, Poland,” by Gary Mokotoff;

“Communicating, Organizing and Sharing Family History: Problems, Solutions and Philosophy” by Marlo E. Schuldtt; “New Zealand Research: Maori” by Irene Ashton Davies Beazley and “Identifying Ancestral Haunts: Family History, GIS and Information Needs”, by Mary B. Ruvane. You can download the issue (and back issues) through the website.

Chief among the site's online

Researching Civil War Records **Online**

The US Civil War cost over five billion dollars, took more than 600,000 lives and left the Southern economy in shambles.

IF YOUR RELATIVES were among the 3.5 million soldiers who fought in the US Civil War, a fascinating chapter in your family history awaits your discovery. Commencing with the Confederate attack on Fort Sumter in 1861 and ending with Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House in 1865, the war cost over \$5 billion, took more than 600,000 lives and left the Southern economy in shambles. It also produced an abundance of records (many now online), which reveal details of soldiers' military service, the names of their wives and children, and even physical traits, such as height, hair and eye color.

The Civil War directly affected the Jonathan Hall family in western New York. A farmer, Hall appears in the 1860 census of Cuba, Allegany County, with his second wife, Sally, and four children.

The eldest child, Henry J., was 22.

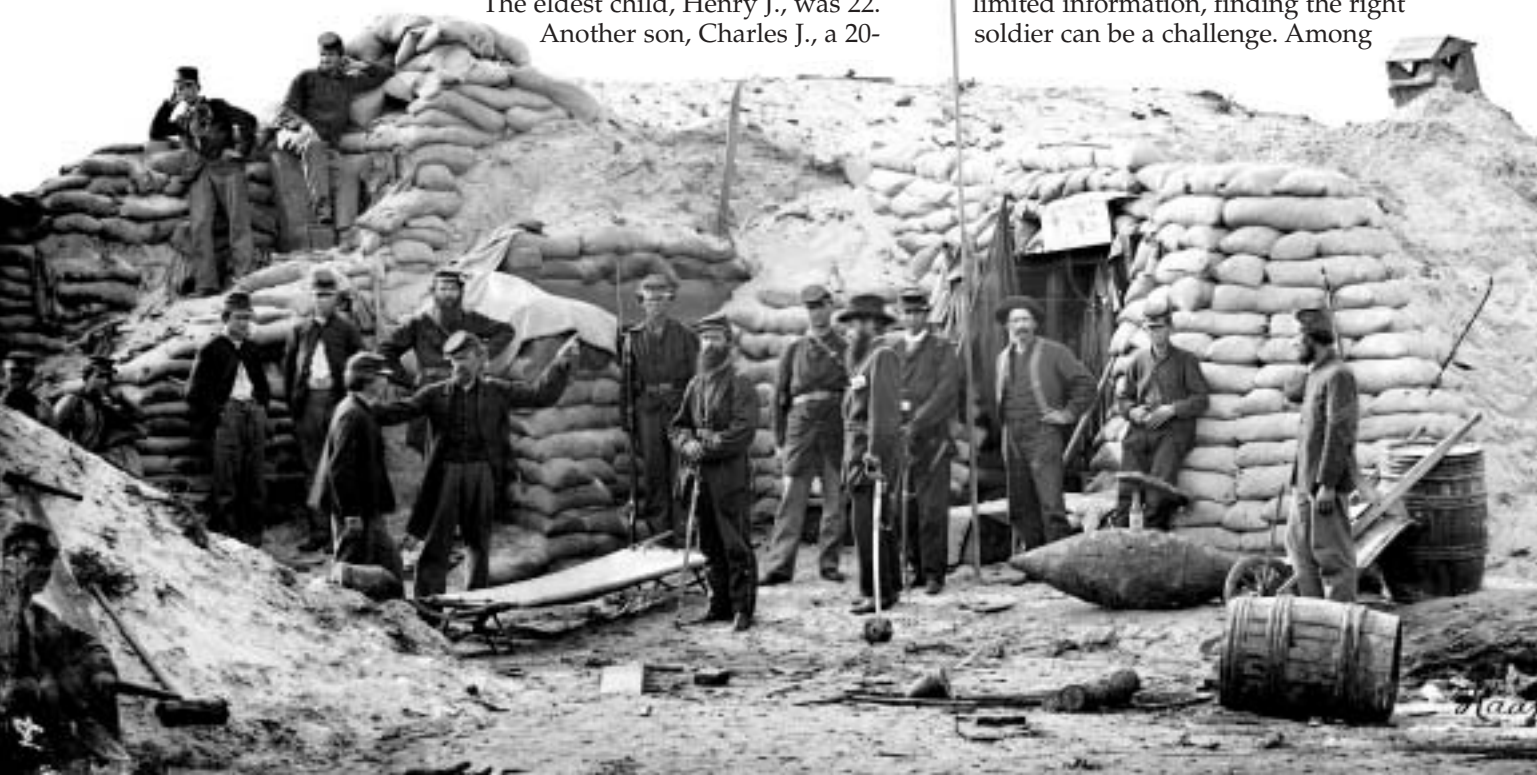
Another son, Charles J., a 20-

year-old farmhand, had recently married and lived nearby with his wife Victoria, just 15.

Ten years later, Jonathan Hall shows up in the 1870 census for Minnesota with his third wife and three young children, including another one named Charles, born in 1864. That suggests that the older son Charles had died, and I haven't found him in the 1870 or later censuses.

Which Charles Hall?

The Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System (CWSSS), www.itd.nps.gov/cwss has 6.3 million entries drawing on Union and Confederate service records at the National Archives. This free site is a great place to begin your search for a Civil War soldier or sailor, but if you're searching for a common name and have limited information, finding the right soldier can be a challenge. Among



Union soldiers enlisting from New York, the database shows 26 Charles Halls, 2 Charles J. Halls, 21 Henry Halls and no Henry J. Hall. Among the 26 Charles Halls, one served in Company K of the 12th New York Cavalry. The CWSSS also has records of Union soldiers held at Andersonville and they show that this Charles Hall was captured at New Berne, NC, on 1 February 1864.

The Civil War page on Cyndi's List, www.cyndislist.com/cw.htm, has many links to regimental rosters and histories. You can also find websites devoted to Civil War regiments by searching Google for a name, like "12th New York Cavalry", which turns up a link to web.cortland.edu/woosterk/12cav.html. This site reveals that the Charles Hall held prisoner at Andersonville had enlisted at age 22 on 27 August 1863 in Buffalo and died at Andersonville on 20 July 1864. His year of birth, about 1841, fits in with Charles Hall, age 20 in the 1860 census of Cuba. Buffalo is located about 50 miles from Cuba and, as the nearest large city in western New York, Charles could have enlisted there. Also, this soldier died on 20 July 1864 and it would seem fitting to name his half-brother, born less than three months later on 3 October 1864, after him. Everything fits perfectly. Yet further study revealed that the Charles Hall who died at Andersonville was **not** my Charles Hall.

Identifying the Regiment

The town of Cuba, New York, is located only about 15 miles from the Pennsylvania border. Returning to the Civil War Soldiers and Sailors Systems and comparing the Henry and Charles Halls who enlisted in Pennsylvania, I found that both a Henry J. Hall and a Charles Hall enlisted in Company K of the 13th Pennsylvania Infantry.

Alice J. Gayley's extensive site, Pennsylvania in the Civil War, www.pa-roots.com/~pacw, lists the members of the 13th Pennsylvania Reserves (the 42nd regiment) whose distinctive cap adornment earned them the nickname Bucktails. On 31 July 1861, six men, including a Henry J. Hall and a Charles Hall, were mustered in at Curwensville, Clearfield County, Pennsylvania as privates in Company K. Census records show that at least three of the four other men mustered in on that day also came from Allegany County, NY and one came from Henry and Charles' hometown Cuba. This clue

gave me confidence that I was on the right track. Pennsylvania in the Civil War also reveals that Charles Hall was killed at Antietam on 17 September 1862.

Several websites can help you identify where a Civil War soldier is buried. Charles Hall was probably buried at Antietam, but his name doesn't appear in a book listing burials at Antietam National Cemetery, <http://aotw.org/>, so he was probably one of many unidentified soldiers buried there.

The Pennsylvania State Archives' ARIAS system, www.digitalarchives.state.pa.us, has several important military databases, including the Civil War Veterans' Card File. There's no card for Charles Hall, but Henry J. Hall's card provides several key details. Mustered into the 13th Pennsylvania Reserves (42nd regiment) on 15 May 1861 at age 23, Henry was five feet, eight inches tall and had a light complexion, gray eyes and dark hair.

Perhaps the greatest loss ever to American genealogists was the destruction of nearly all the 1890 federal census records. The 1890 Veterans and Widows Special Census, however, survives for some Kentucky counties and the other states from Louisiana through Wyoming. The special census enumerated Union veterans of the Civil War and their widows and is a useful tool for identifying a soldier's unit. Ancestry.com recently created an every-name index linked to images of this census. The entry for Henry J. Hall in Cuba, Allegany County, N.Y. shows that he was a private in Company K of the 1st Pennsylvania Infantry, enlisted on 25 May 1861 and was discharged on 17 June 1865. That's helpful information, but not entirely correct. He enlisted in the 13th, not the 1st, Pennsylvania Infantry.

Service and Pension Files

Online sources provide a lot of information on Civil War soldiers, but it's well worth getting copies

Perhaps the greatest loss ever to American genealogists was the destruction of nearly all the 1890 federal census records.

The service record for Charles J. Hall, shown below, tells us that he was killed in action on 17 September 1862.

13 Reserves. Pa.
Charles Hall
Private, Co. K, 1st Rifles, 13 Reg't Pa. Res. Inf.
Appears on
Company Muster Roll
for Sept 9 Oct 1862
Joined for duty and enrolled:
When July 31, 1861
Where Harrisburg
Period 3 years
Present or absent
Stoppage, \$ 100 for
Due Gov't \$ 100 for
Remarks: Killed in action near Sharpsburg, Md. Sept. 17/62.

Civil War Records Online

of soldiers' original service and pension files for more details. You could order the files without searching online sources first, but knowing the regiment and dates of service will help you order the right file, especially if the soldier had a common name.

There's a separate service record for each unit in which a soldier served. The papers usually include a description of the soldier, his enlistment papers, discharge papers and muster records showing when he was present or absent. Charles Hall's service file fits on four legal-sized pages and shows that he was 21 when he joined Company K, 1st Rifles of the 13th Pennsylvania Reserve Infantry at Harrisburg on 31 July 1861. He was present at several musters. Remarks on the muster roll for September and October 1862 say, "Killed in action near Sharpsburg, Md. Sept. 17/62."

Henry J. Hall's 12-page service file shows that he joined Company K at age 23 on the same day in 1861 as his brother Charles. Battery muster rolls say that Henry joined for duty at Cuba, NY on 5 August 1861. According to the roll dated 10 February 1864, he was a 24-year-old farmer born in Ontario County, NY, had a fair complexion, gray eyes and dark hair and was five feet, ten inches tall. That adds a couple of inches to his height as shown on the Pennsylvania State Archives' site.

A Civil War veteran, his surviving spouse or other family members could file for a pension. To qualify, a veteran had to prove that he suffered from a dis-

ability resulting from military service. Pension files often provide information on marriages and children. No pension file exists for Charles Hall. Maybe his young widow remarried, making her ineligible for a pension.

Henry J. Hall's 35-page pension file includes papers dating between 1890 and 1924. In 1890, he based his claim on having contracted rheumatism while in battle in 1862, but the government rejected it. In 1894, he added heart disease to his list of ailments and got witnesses to vouch that his health problems did not result from "vicious habits". That worked and he was awarded a monthly pension of \$6, which increased to \$8 a month the next year and to \$25 a month by 1914.

Henry's pension file also includes his dates and places of birth and death, information on his family and a physical description. When asked to provide proof of his date of birth, he said he supposed it was recorded in the family Bible, but he couldn't find it. Answering questions on his family, Henry named his ex-wife, Caroline, and his current wife, Sarah Ann, and said he had no children. He variously described his hair as brown, dark or black and his eyes as gray or blue. The biggest discrepancy concerns his height. He said he was five feet, 10 inches tall when he enlisted at age 24 in 1861, but just five feet, five inches tall at age 50.

Records of your ancestor may contain contradictions, too, but they're sure to add color to your family history.



*Westover Landing, Va.
Col. James H. Childs
(standing) with other
officers of the 4th
Pennsylvania Cavalry,
August 1862.*



*View from a Confederate fort,
east of Peachtree Street,
looking east, Atlanta, Georgia.*

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US Civil War Records Online

We've rounded up the best websites for researching Civil War soldiers and almost all of them are free. (A dollar sign, \$, indicates sites that require a fee.) Most of them include searchable databases and some even have digitized images of original documents. You might even find a photograph of your ancestor. Even if you don't, it's fun to discover the role your relatives played in the Civil War.

NATIONWIDE RECORDS

1883 PENSIONERS ONLINE

www.arealdomain.com/pensioners1883.html

While incomplete, these lists name many Union veterans of the Civil War and survivors of the War of 1812 who received pensions for war service. There's no index. To find a name with Google, word your query in this format: '1883 Pensioners on the Roll' 'New York' John Smith

1890 VETERANS AND WIDOWS SPECIAL CENSUS

www.arealdomain.com/vetcensus.html

The 1890 Veterans and Widows Special Census survives for some Kentucky counties and the other states through the end of the alphabet. The census was supposed to enumerate Union Veterans of the Civil War, but lists some Confederate veterans, too. This site has links to online transcriptions, but no index.

1890 VETERANS SCHEDULES \$

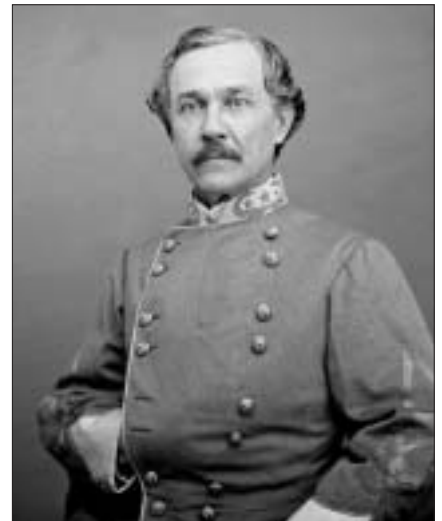
www.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=8667

Ancestry.com's version of the 1890 special census of Civil War Union veterans and widows is an every-name index linked to images of the original records. You get access with a subscription to Ancestry.com's US Deluxe Membership for \$29.95 US a month or \$155.40 US a year. You can access Ancestry.com for free at LDS Family History Centers and at libraries subscribing to Ancestry Library Edition.

AMERICAN CIVIL WAR RESEARCH DATABASE \$

www.civilwardata.com

Pursuing the lofty goal of bringing



*Left; Major Gen. Romeyn B. Ayres, officer of the Federal Army.
Right; Brig. Gen. Joseph R. Anderson, officer of the Confederate Army.*

together information on every soldier in the Civil War, this huge database already has over 4.2 million soldiers' records. Sources include state rosters, as well as regimental histories, Rolls of Honor and the 1890 census of Civil War veterans and widows. A visitor's pass costs \$10 US and an annual subscription is \$25 US.

ANDERSONVILLE PRISONER LOOKUP

www.maconcounttyga.org

One of the largest of many Confederate military prisons, Andersonville was built in early 1864. It held more than 45,000 Union soldiers, of whom almost 13,000 died from disease, poor sanitation, malnutrition and overcrowding. This database has information on over 32,000 prisoners.

CIVIL WAR SOLDIERS AND SAILORS SYSTEM

www.itd.nps.gov/cwss

The National Park Service, the Genealogical Society of Utah and the Federation of Genealogical Societies collaborated on this database of 6.3 million Civil War soldiers. The National Archives' General Index Cards to both Union and Confederate soldiers' service form the basis of the database. The site also has regimental histories and battle descriptions, as well as records of Union prisoners at Andersonville and Confederate prisoners at Fort McHenry. More

cemetery and prisoner of war records will be added later.

Click on "Sailors", "Explore the Union African-American Sailors Index" and "Sailor Search" to search the Black Sailors Research Project. Compiled by a research team at Howard University, it lists 18,000 men (and more than a dozen women) of African descent who served in the US Navy during the Civil War.

OFFICIAL RECORDS OF THE UNION AND CONFEDERATE NAVIES IN THE WAR OF REBELLION

cdl.library.cornell.edu/moa/moa_browse.html

These 30 volumes are part of Cornell University's Making of America site. Search for the name of a soldier, his regiment and the names of captains and colonels who commanded the soldier's units.

STATE RECORDS

ALABAMA CIVIL WAR SERVICE CARDS FILE

www.archives.state.al.us/civilwar/index.cfm

Drawing on pension records, muster rolls, veterans' censuses and other sources, this index is ongoing. So far, more than 114,000 entries for last names starting with the letters A to L are online. Copies of up to 20 pages cost \$15 US for Alabama residents and \$25 US for non-residents.

DELAWARE PUBLIC ARCHIVES

www.state.de.us/sos/dpa

Click on Digital Archives and then on Documents and "Records related to Delaware's involvement in the American Civil War" to view muster rolls and casualty lists. There's no name index.

GEORGIA CIVIL WAR PENSION RECORDS

docuweb.gsu.edu/CivilWar.htm

Georgia State University and the Georgia Department of Archives and History collaborated to create this online collection of pension files of Georgia Confederate Civil War veterans and their widows. The records are arranged by county.

MASSACHUSETTS CIVIL WAR RESEARCH CENTER

www.massachusettscivilwar.com

Check for your Old Bay State ancestor in this site's database of over 150,000 soldiers, sailors and marines who served in Massachusetts units and regiments during the Civil War. Brief histories of 73 Massachusetts regiments may reveal where a soldier joined up and was stationed during the war.

MINNESOTA IN THE CIVIL AND INDIAN WARS 1861-65

books.google.com/advanced_book_search

This book is part of Google Book Search. Type **Minnesota in the Civil and Indian Wars** in the Title box and search for a soldier's name.

NORTH CAROLINA CONFEDERATE CIVIL WAR SOLDIERS

www.censusdigging.com/nc_civilwar.html

This ongoing project already con-

Hall, Henry J		E - 13 Res - 42 Regt 1 - 942
Enrolled:	At:	
M.I.: 5-15-61	As: Pvt.	At:
M.O.:		
Discharged:		
Age at enrollment: 23	Complexion: Light	
Height: 5'8"	Eyes: Gray	
Hair: Dark	Occupation: Farmer	
Residence:		
Remarks: Been. 2-1-64 at Aristoe Sta, Va. Trans to 190th Regt P.V. 5-31-64. Vet (Bates).		

The Pennsylvania State Archives' ARIAS system, www.digitalarchives.state.pa.us has several important military databases, including the *Civil War Veterans' Card File*. Henry J. Hall's original Veteran's Card is shown above.

tains information on thousands of Civil War soldiers from North Carolina.

INDEX TO OKLAHOMA CONFEDERATE PENSION RECORDS

www.odl.state.ok.us/oar/docs/pension.pdf

This index gives the application number so you can find a pension record at the Oklahoma Historical Society.

PENNSYLVANIA IN THE CIVIL WAR

www.pa-roots.com/~pacw

Alice J. Gayley's extensive site features many regimental rosters.

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES & HISTORY: CONFEDERATE PENSION APPLICATIONS 1919-1938

www.archivesindex.sc.gov

The 10,242 items in this index are linked to images of the original applications.

INDEX TO TENNESSEE CONFEDERATE PENSION APPLICATIONS: SOLDIERS AND WIDOWS

www.tennessee.gov/tsla/history/military/pension.htm

This online index covers soldiers, widows and African Americans. Also, check the Tennessee Civil War Veterans' Questionnaires at www.tennessee.gov/tsla/history/military/quest.htm. Click on "Order Forms" and "Military Records Search Request (form SS-2236)" to order a copy of a Civil War service record, pension application or a soldier's questionnaire (\$5 US for Tennessee residents, \$10 US for non-residents).

TEXAS STATE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES COMMISSION:

CONFEDERATE PENSIONS SEARCH

www.tsl.state.tx.us/arc/pensions/index.html

This index of 54,634 Confederate

GETTING COPIES OF CIVIL WAR SERVICE AND PENSION RECORDS

YOU CAN GET photocopies of Union and Confederate service files and Union pension files from the National Archives through *Order Online!* at eservices.archives.gov/orderonline. Click on the "Made-To-Order Reproductions" tab and on "Military Service and Pension Records". To order by mail, you'll need NATF Form 85 for pension files and form 86 for service files. Request them by fill-

ing out the form at www.archives.gov/contact/inquire-form.html. A complete pension file costs \$37 US and a service file costs \$17 US. Many professional researchers are listed at www.archives.gov/research/hire-help and they can often provide copies faster and cheaper. You can also borrow Confederate service files on microfilm through LDS Family History Centers. The former Confederate states granted pen-

sions to Confederate veterans, widows and orphans. A veteran could apply for a pension from the state where he lived, even if he served in a unit from a different state. You can search online indexes to Confederate pension application files in several states and view online images of pension records of Civil War veterans and their widows from Florida and Georgia. These databases are listed above.

US Civil War Records Online

pensions issued by the Texas government between 1899 and 1975 provides names, county of residence and pension number. Copies cost 10 cents per page, plus postage.

TEXAS ADJUTANT GENERAL SERVICE RECORDS

www2.tsl.state.tx.us/trail/ServiceSearch.jsp

This index includes records of Confederate service linked to digital images.

LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA CONFEDERATE RECORDS

www.lva.lib.va.us/whatwehave/mil
The Library of Virginia's Civil War databases include an index to Confederate Pension Rolls, with images, and Confederate Disability Applications and Receipts. Don't overlook the applications for admission to the Robert E. Lee Camp Confederate Soldiers' Home and an index to the *Confederate Veteran* Magazine.

ROSTER OF WISCONSIN VOLUNTEERS, WAR OF THE REBELLION, 1861-1865
www.wisconsinhistory.org/roster
Search for a Civil War soldier from Wisconsin by name or regiment.

CEMETERY RECORDS

CONFEDERATE CEMETERY LIST

www.geocities.com/CollegePark/Grounds/7235

Use this site as your jumping-off point to over 2,400 online cemetery listings with Confederate burials.

HISTORY OF THE ANTIETAM NATIONAL CEMETERY

www.whilbr.org/antietamNationalCemetery/index.aspx
Western Maryland's Historical Library hosts the online version of this rare 1869 volume listing Union soldiers buried in the Antietam National Cemetery in Sharpsburg, Maryland.

NATIONWIDE GRAVESITE LOCATOR

gravelocator.cem.va.gov
Created by the Department of Veterans Affairs, this site has 3.2 million records for veterans buried at 120 national cemeteries since the Civil War. You'll also find records for some state veterans cemeteries

and burials in Arlington National Cemetery since 1999.

PHOTOGRAPHS

AMERICAN MEMORY, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, SELECTED CIVIL WAR PHOTOGRAPHS, 1861-65

memory.loc.gov/ammem/cwarquerry.html

These 1,118 photographs, mostly made under the supervision of Mathew B. Brady, include battle sites, officers and some enlisted men.

MHI PHOTOGRAPH DATABASE

<http://carlislewww.army.mil/usamhi/PhotoDB.html>

This catalog lists Civil War photographs at the US Army Military History Institute in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Catalog entries aren't yet linked to images, but you can order copies.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES ARCHIVAL RESEARCH CATALOG

www.archives.gov/research/arc

To find Civil War photographs in ARC, click on the Search button, check the box for "Descriptions of Archival Materials linked to digital copies" and, under Type of Archival Materials, select "Photographs and Other Graphic Materials". Then type your search terms in the keyword(s) box.

PHOTOS OF CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS AND SAILORS

www.geocities.com/coh41/home.html
Webmaster George Wright compiled photographs of Confederate soldiers from 13 states for display on this site.

GUIDES AND RESOURCES

ACCESS GENEALOGY MILITARY RESOURCE CENTER

www.accessgenealogy.com/military
This site has records, research guides and links.

AMERICAN CIVIL WAR HOMEPAGE

sunsite.utk.edu/civil-war
Check this large directory of Civil War resources for links to rosters, regimental histories and battle histories.

CYNDI'S LIST OF GENEALOGY SITES ON THE INTERNET

www.cyndislist.com/cw.htm
Under the United States Index,



An Alexandria, Va. Soldiers' Cemetery c.1860-65 hints at the devastation of the US Civil War.

check the category for US Civil War (War for Southern Independence).

FAMILYSEARCH RESEARCH HELPS

www.familysearch.org
Click on the Search tab, Research Helps, Sorted by Subject and on "M" to view a list of research outlines covering military records. Click on the title to view the outline onscreen, on PDF to print a copy or on the item number to order a printed copy.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES: RESEARCH IN MILITARY RECORDS: CIVIL WAR

www.archives.gov/research/civil-war
This guide provides an overview of Civil War military records and photographs at the National Archives.

THE UNITED STATES CIVIL WAR CENTER

www.lib.lsu.edu/cwc/links/hist.htm
This site is maintained by Louisiana State University and includes links to Civil War battlefield and cemetery sites, as well as a guide to "Researching People of the Civil War Era".



Rick Crume is the author of Plugging Into Your Past: How to Find Real Family History Records Online (Family Tree Books). Visit his website at www.onelibrary.com



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10 Reasons to Join the Godfrey Memorial Library



Janice Nickerson is a professional genealogist based in Toronto, Canada. Her website is www.uppercanadagenealogy.com

I FIRST HEARD about the Godfrey Memorial Library through an article published in *Family Chronicle* November/December 2004 by Halvor Moorshead. Mr. Moorshead called the library's online resources "the best value in genealogy", accessible as they are with only a \$35 US annual membership. So when he asked me to do a feature article for *Internet Genealogy* on the library's online collection, I was more than happy to give it a try. Was I ever in for a treat.

ered them all together, and paid for subscriptions in many cases (although some are freely available, if you know how to find them), so that library members can access them all from one central portal.

Each resource is listed both by topic/record type and by location (mostly American), and clicking on the name of the database takes you right to the search page on whatever website it resides.

Your biggest challenge will be choosing what to search and limiting the results, as they can be overwhelming if the name you're searching is not rare! Expect to find yourself glued to your computer for many hours as you through the resources offered here. As one who knows from experience — I got a little carried away "researching" for this article — you might want to limit yourself to searching the records for one state at a time, and maybe set yourself a timer so you don't find yourself bleary-eyed with a

stiff neck, when you finally look up from your computer.

Rather than try to describe all the resources available through the GML, which would make this a 50-page article, I will limit myself to giving you my Top 10 Reasons to Join the Godfrey Memorial Library.

REASON #1: NEWSPAPERS

Newspapers are the absolute best way to put "flesh" on the "bones" of your ancestors. They can give you all kinds of information that you won't find anywhere else. For example, using GML's access to the NewspaperArchive.com collection, I found a report of a distant cousin being charged with murder when he attempted to defend himself from an intruder, an account of another cousin's custody dispute and a rather quaint narrative about a third-cousin's wedding, including a detailed description of her wedding dress.

Newspapers are also valuable for



The Godfrey Memorial Library (GML) has had a mandate to collect and publish materials relating to American genealogy and

biography since its founding in 1947. The collection, both onsite and online, continues to grow day by day, and membership in the GML gives you access to a truly impressive array of digital resources, including thousands of newspapers, obituary databases, vital record indexes, military record indexes, local history publications and biographical databases. Most of these resources were not created by the GML, but by various government agencies, historical and genealogical societies and private companies. However, the library has gath-



Your biggest challenge will be choosing what to search and limiting the results, as they can be overwhelming.

their ability to reach into the present, where most "official" records are restricted by privacy laws. Thus, if you want to track down distant cousins and/or identify all the descendants of a particular ancestor, newspapers will become your favorite tool, and the GML gives you access to a huge collection of newspapers, both past and present. The library also recently added the *London Times* Archive.

REASON #2: READY REFERENCE

Two reference works, the *Columbia World Gazetteer* and *Reference USA*, are very helpful resources for genealogists. The first helps you locate place names around the world; the second helps you locate people in the United States (and Canada).

REASON #3: FALLEN SOLDIERS

If any of your American ancestors served in the military, you should be able to find when and where they died and were buried, and, perhaps, details of their service, using the resources provided by the GML. Here you'll find links to an index to the National Burial Index kept by the US Department of Veteran's Affairs, and databases of those who died in the US Civil War, WWI, WWII, the Korean War and the First Iraq War.

REASON #4: AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

The GML has a fantastic collection of resources for African-American research, including digital reproductions of six major 19th-century African-American newspapers and the African American Biographical Database which includes profiles and full-text sketches telling the story of both famous and not-so-famous Black Americans' lives.

REASON #5: VITAL RECORDS

Many indexes to state and county birth, marriage and death records are available on the Internet, mostly free of charge, but do you know how to find them? Never fear, the GML provides a handy one-stop jumping off point for vital indexes in 20 states. And once you know there's an index, why not try checking it, even if you're not

aware of any relatives living there? That's the kind of reasoning that led me to find a whole branch of my mostly Canadian family living in California!

While these are only indexes, you can learn a lot from an index, especially if a family lived in one location for while, by combining the results of searches of birth, marriage and death indexes, and adding up the ages (usually provided on death record indexes).

REASON #6: OBITUARIES!

I love obituaries. I know that sounds morbid, but obituaries are nothing less than mini-biographies, covering an ancestor's entire life. True, they tend to be overly sympathetic, but where else are you going to find so much information about a single individual in a single record?

The GML provides an access point to NewsBank's American Obituaries, a database of obituaries and death notices published in hundreds of American newspapers from the 1980s to the present. And, of course, you can also find obituaries in several collections of older digitized newspapers accessible through the GML.

REASON #7: CRIMINALS, SCALLYWAGS AND BANKRUPTCIES

If obituaries paint rosy pictures of our relatives' lives, other records reveal darker shadows. The GML gives you access to prisoners' databases for 10 states plus the federal inmate database. Some of these cover over a 100 years' worth of convicts records. And if your relatives weren't criminals, but had brushes with the civil side of the law, you may find them listed in its database of civil judgments, small claims judgments, tax liens and Chapter 7 filings.

REASON #8: OCLC WORLDCAT

The online computer library center is a non-profit organization that brings together records and resources for libraries around the world. The WorldCat service allows users to search for books and other materials held by over 53,000 (public, university, government and private) libraries in 96

countries and territories around the world! This way, you don't have to be limited to what you can find in your local library. You can use WorldCat to find the items you need and then order them through inter-library loan.

REASON #9: WHO'S WHO

So you've stumbled across a moderately famous or successful relative and you want to know more about his or her life and career. Where can you look to find out more? You start with the GML's subscription to *Marquis Who's Who on the Web*, an online version of the famous biographical directories of Americans in history, science, law, medicine, business, politics, media, entertainment, education, religion and human services. In total, this database gives you biographies of over 1.2 million people, at least half of whom have to be your relatives, right?

REASON #10: BECAUSE IT'S THE BEST VALUE IN GENEALOGY!

All the resources I've mentioned above, and more, are available to you through the Godfrey Memorial Library for a mere \$35 US per year. What a deal.

So, what's the downside? Well, other than the truly overwhelming quantity of resources, my only quibble with the GML's offerings is that it's sometimes difficult to know exactly what you're searching (who is the actual provider, what's in the database, etc.) because the GML's link takes you right to the search engine on whatever website the database resides. I'd appreciate it if the GML could provide a little background material on each database. But that's truly quibbling, because you can usually find a description of the resource if you look for it.

To get your library card, go to www.godfrey.org, click on "subscribe or renew online" and follow the easy instructions, or telephone the library at (860) 346-4375, or mail your check to: Godfrey Memorial Library, 134 Newfield Street, Middletown, CT 06457-2534.

Case Study: Robert Cronin

CASE STUDIES IN INTERNET GENEALOGY PROVIDE REAL-LIFE EXAMPLES DEMONSTRATING ALL THE STEPS YOU MIGHT TAKE RESEARCHING AN INDIVIDUAL OR A FAMILY USING THE INTERNET. IN THIS CASE STUDY, PAT WOHLER DESCRIBES HOW HE RESEARCHED A GREAT-UNCLE WHO DIED IN THE CLOSING WEEKS OF WWI.



Robert Cronin (seated) died in WWI on 27 September 1918. It was this photograph that started the search.

A research trip to England was out of the question and we had no interest in hiring a professional researcher there. It was the Internet or nothing.

IT WAS A PORTRAIT of a vacant looking young man in uniform. "That's my grandfather's brother, Robert. He died in WWI." That was all that was known of him and, from time to time, over several years, I tried to get a handle on him without much success.

Finally, I bit the bullet and decided to make him a focus of research. This was doubly significant to us because we had very little information about the grandfather's (John Jr.) family and we hoped that the search for Robert might lead to filling in some of those gaps.

Our Cronin family came from County Cork in Ireland.

They left there for England, probably in search of work. It was here that John Cronin married Bridget. They had two children (that we knew of), John Jr. and Robert. John Jr. married Elizabeth de Coursey and they had twin daughters in 1908. Two years later, John Jr., his pregnant wife and twin daughters immigrated to Canada.

Happily, we had one piece of documentation to get us started, the birth certificate of one of the twins. This provided dates, names of parents and the location of the residence in England. Now we were on our own.

A research trip to England was out of the question and we had no interest in hiring a professional researcher there. It was the Internet or nothing.

THE SEARCH BEGINS

We devised a series of research questions and set out on our quest. One limitation was that we did not have subscriptions to any Internet services or sites, so everything we used is available at no charge to any Internet researcher.

Following the genealogical dictum of "start with what you know and work backwards", we set out to find the marriage certificate of John Jr. and Elizabeth. Vital records in England and Wales after 1837 are registered centrally. The index-

es of these records are available on a number of websites. One of the free ones is <http://freebmd.rootsweb.com>. Scroll down this page and select "Search".

The search form that appears allows you to select the kind of record you are looking for, the date range (which I estimated from the birth of the twins) and the town and/or county. I couldn't be sure where they were married, so I left all that blank and it made no difference at all. The search did not, however, go smoothly.

When I entered John and Elizabeth's names, I could find no record of their marriage. I had not entered any other data about them because I find that usually the less data provided, the more likely it is to be a successful search. What do I do next?

I searched for a marriage record for John, without specifying the wife's name and got 26 hits and printed these to compare with what I found for his wife. I did the same for Elizabeth and got none! The site is not equipped with Soundex (a system used for giving the results from similar sounding names), so I tried the search again with different spellings of her last name. I even eliminated the Christian name in case she was married under a given, but not regularly used, name (e.g. Mary Elizabeth might be called Elizabeth but appear on a legal document as Mary).

Finally, I found it.

THE MARRIAGE OF ROBERT'S PARENTS

I had an Elizabeth *de Courcy* whose record was on the same page of the same record book as one of my John Cronins. I now knew when and where the marriage was registered and I had the volume and page number from the register required to apply for a marriage certificate.

This phase of the operation was a little easier. The General Record Office (GRO) has a website at www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificate and you can order and pay for the certificate online.

When it arrived, the certificate gave us John Jr.'s age, so we were able to go through the process again and obtain his birth certificate. When this came, it provided us with his father's name and his mother's maiden name, which was especially helpful.

USING THE CENSUS

I felt we had enough information now to go to the censuses. The 1881 British census is online (free) at www.familysearch.org, the website of The Family History Library in Salt Lake City. In order to get to the census, select "Search" from the tabs at the top of the page, then "Censuses" from the menu at the left. A drop down menu then allows you to select which census you want.

I got seven hits for John Cronin. Each hit is a hotlink, and by clicking on it, more information on him appears. There is also a "Household" option and by clicking on this you find a summary of the members of that household. We knew John Jr.'s age in 1881 (he was three), so we were easily able to isolate the right family. Moreover, we now knew the names and ages of a number of John's siblings — but there was no Robert. Eventually, we found out he was the youngest child, born after the 1881 census.

I thought that the British 1901 census was available online, but I was not sure where to find this. Perhaps this was a job for Google, www.google.com? I opted to do an "Advance Search", which sounds complicated, but, luckily for me, it is ridiculously easy. In the category "with all words", I entered **census 1901** and in the category "with exact phrase" I entered **Great Britain**.

The first hit to pop up was, in fact, the 1901 census online site, www.1901censusonline.com. This is a pay site, but you can do a preliminary search at no cost. I typed in the search terms **Robert Cronin** — and there he was! He was 13 at the time, born in Ireland (hence no record of his birth in England), living in Middlesex County, where his parents had been in the 1881 census, and he was working as a pawnbroker's shop assistant. That was a good bit of information to get at no cost from a pay site.

There are parts of other British censuses on line through www.census-online.com and the information was more or less consistent.

We could now estimate the marriage date for John Sr. and Bridget (whose maiden name we had from John Jr.'s birth certificate) and send for their marriage certificate which included the names of their parents. We were now into a more solid family context, which could help us to pinpoint our Robert, if we could ever get closer to him.

Name	Relation	Marital Status	Gender	Age	Birthplace	Occupation
John CRONIN	Head	M	Male	40	Cork	Labourer
Bridget CRONIN	Wife	M	Female	38	Cork	
Mary A. CRONIN	Daur		Female	14	Marylebone	Scholar
Jeremiah CRONIN	Son		Male	11	Marylebone	At Paper Factory
John CRONIN	Son		Male	3	Marylebone	
Elizth. CRONIN	Daur		Female	1	Marylebone	

SERVING IN WWI

Since the only thing we knew was that Robert was in the army and died in WWI, that seemed the logical place to start.

His military service history was another matter. Archival records for enlisted men in WWI can be difficult to find as most were destroyed in bombing raids during WWII and others through water damage, poor storage conditions and general carelessness. Records survive for only a handful of regiments.

When I have no idea what is available on the web, I often go to Cyndi's List. This is the most complete list of

The Cronin family from the 1881 census report. The report also provided their address and the microfilm source.



John Cronin Jr.'s birth certificate included his mother's maiden name, which was a big help in subsequent research.

Image	Name	Age	Where Born	Administrative County	Civil Parish	Occupation
	Robert Cronin	6	Marylebone	London	St Marylebone	
	Robert Cronin	13	Ireland	Middlesex	Wilkesden	Pawn Brokers (Shop Assistant)
	Robert Cronin	15	St Pancras London	London	Wandsworth	
	Robert Cronin	33	Cardiff Glam	Glamorganshire	Cardiff	Civil ...
	Robert Cronin	96	Hants	Isle Of Wight	Covent	Painter

catalogued genealogy websites available and includes over 250,000 of them at www.cyndislist.com. By searching "WWI", we checked what databases were available.

There is a website on WWI campaign medals at www.documentsonline.nationalarchives.gov.uk. Select "WWI Campaign Medals" from the menu on the right and then select the "search" hotlink in the first line of the text. On the search form, I entered only the first and last name and found four Robert Cronins, with their regiments and numbers, who had been awarded medals. By clicking on "See Details" you get the information required to order a copy of the medal card for £3.50 (about \$6 US).

There is an illustration and information on the available medals on the opening page of the database. However, this did not get me much further ahead

Robert Cronin as he appears in the 1901 census report.

Case Study: Robert Cronin

No	Surname	Rank	Service	Date Of Death	Age	Regiment	Nationality	Grave/Memorial Ref.	Cemetery/Memorial Name
1	CRONIN, ROBERT	Private	71852	07/06/1917	24	Sherwood Foresters (Nottinghamshire and Derby Regiment)	United Kingdom	Panel 39 and 41.	TYNES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL
2	CRONIN, ROBERT	Private	6602	27/09/1918	0	Irish Guards	United Kingdom	I. B. 10.	SANDERS KEEP MILITARY CEMETERY, GRAINCOURT-LES-HAVINCOURT
3	CRONIN, R.	Sapper	15345	26/03/1915	0	Royal Engineers	United Kingdom	IV. B. 11.	ROYAL IRISH RIFLES GRAVEYARD, LAVENTIE
4	CRONIN, ROBERT	Private	8477	25/04/1915	25	Royal Munster Fusiliers	United Kingdom	Panel 185 to 190.	HELLES MEMORIAL

Report on Robert Cronin by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.



The distinctive hat badge of the Irish Guards was the final clue in identifying our Robert Cronin. Above is a blow-up of Robert's cap from his photograph. Below is the cap badge of the Irish Guards, luckily one of the regiments with surviving records.



except that I now had the regiments and regimental numbers of several Robert Cronins. If I had realized it at the time, this information was very significant.

Since we knew that he had died in the war, we decided to look for help in that area. We found a database from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, which has a website at www.cwgc.org, that is loaded with information. I was so excited with what I found that I neglected to fully explore the website and missed a lot of the important information on my first visit. On the search form, I entered the name, initial, which war and which service, leaving out other information. There were three hits.

The information provided on each soldier is the Name, Rank, Service Number Date of Death, Age (if known), Regiment, Nationality, Reference to the location of the grave in the cemetery and Name of Cemetery. The name of the soldier is a hotlink to a printer-friendly page that lists his details. On that page, the cemetery name is a hotlink to information on the location of the cemetery with precise directions and historical information about it.

What I did have now was three possible regiments that he might have belonged to: the Royal Engineers, the Royal Munster Fusiliers (The Dirty Shirts) and the Irish Guards (The Micks). Which one was our Robert?

I now wanted to check the websites for the three regiments to see what resources they might have to help.

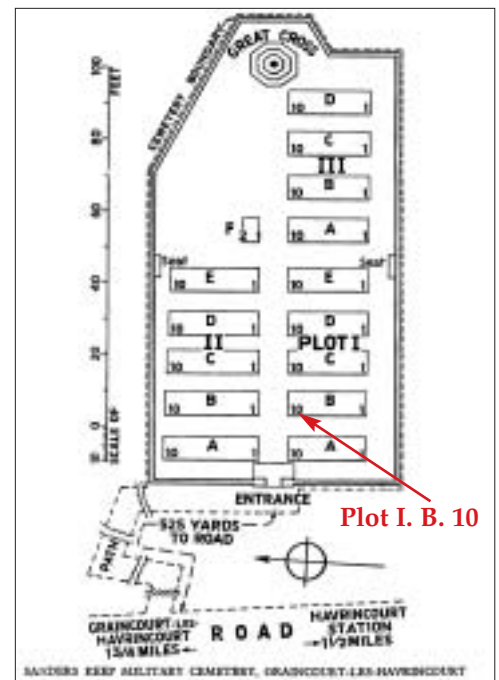
A Google search for "British Army" (using the quotation marks ensures that the words must appear together on a page for it to be a hit) led me to a good portal to British regimental websites at www.regiments.org/regiments/uk/lists/bargts.htm. There was not much relevant on these Regimental sites. The Irish Guards had an archive and museum, but the fee for documentation was £25 (about \$45 US). That is a fair amount of money

A useful site for finding British records is www.genuki.org.uk. It has a generous list of links and is very easy to use (see *Family Chronicle*, Sep/Oct 2001, p. 75). There is also a site that has extensive links to British census indexes and records at www.genealogybranches.com/unitedkingdom.html. It also indicates if each is a pay site or not.

to invest on speculation. Then it struck me that the hat badges of the three units, as displayed on their websites, were distinctively different; a circle, an oval and a sunburst. This led to the breakthrough.

I went over the photograph of Robert with a magnifying lens and unquestionably his hat badge was a sunburst. He was a member of the Irish Guards, one of the few regiments that still had good records! I had their address from their website and my mail request for a copy of his service record along with a money order for the £25 was off like a shot. About 10 days later, his service record was in my hands.

When I revisited the Commonwealth War Graves website, after determining which was our Robert Cronin, I was able, from this information, to



A plan of the military cemetery where Robert Cronin is buried. We know from the index that Robert is buried in plot I. B. 10. From this, we can identify his actual grave-stone in the photograph on the next page: to the right and eighth row from the front.

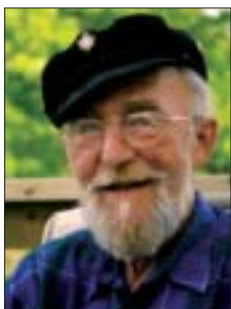


Robert's final resting place. This little cemetery, surrounded by a stone fence, is right on the battlefield where he fell while storming Sanders Keep on 27 September 1918. Robert's gravestone is the second on the right, closest to the camera.

determine that he was killed while storming the German fortifications of Sanders Keep in the Pas de Calais area.

I now knew when and where he was born (October 1887 in Mallow, County Cork), his physical characteristics (5 ft 8 in. with scar on right eyebrow), his trade (motor-tire examiner) and a chronology of his military service — even the three occasions on which he was charged with minor infractions. All of this helped us fill out a better living picture of the shadow that had been Robert.

Family lore had it that he came from County Cork, but Cork is the largest county in Ireland and without more precise directions, it is not practical to do a search there. We now know, from his service record, the parish in Cork the family came from and a whole new set of research questions is forming to push the family history farther back than we had thought was possible.

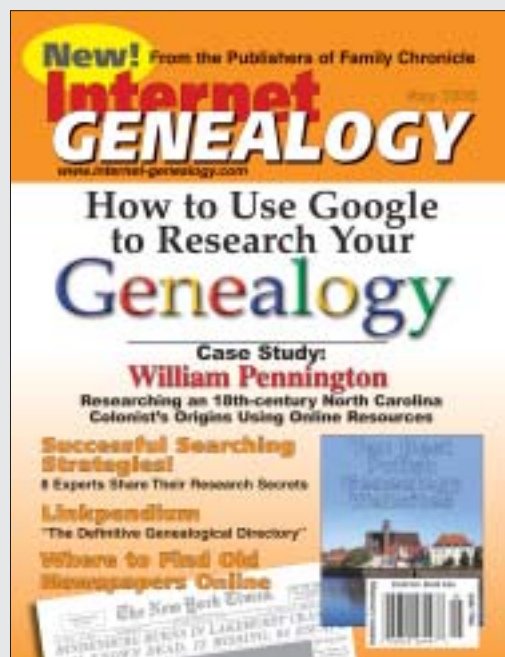


Patrick Wohler is a certified genealogist whose weekly column, "The Family Historian", appears in six newspapers. He has written several books on history and the management of heritage resources and institutions. His latest book is about the early commercial photographers of Lanark and Renfrew Counties in Ontario.

Internet GENEALOGY

THIS WAS GOING TO BE AN ADVERTISEMENT FOR BACK ISSUES OF *INTERNET GENEALOGY*. WE SET ASIDE A COUPLE OF THOUSAND COPIES, BUT WE'VE USED THEM ALL FULFILLING SUBSCRIPTIONS!

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More Places to Start Your Research

I originally planned to write an article about the Top Ten places to start your genealogy on the Internet, but people's needs are so different, and there are so many wonderful websites out there, that I couldn't restrain myself, so the list grew. Twenty-seven sites appeared in the last issue; here we recommend an additional 27. Several sites fall under more than one category and so may appear a number of times.

BIG GENERAL LINKS SITES

If you're an experienced genealogist, but new to the Internet, you'll want to go directly to sites that can help you find out what's available online. Here are the two best ways to find a genealogical website.

1. Cyndi's List

www.cyndislist.com

This is the largest, most comprehensive list of links to genealogically related websites in the world. It is organized by both location



(country, state, etc.) and subject. By scanning the list of available categories, you can usually find exactly what you want, assuming that it exists somewhere on the Internet.

2. The World GenWeb Project

www.worldgenweb.org

This a world-wide volunteer effort (but best for North America and Western Europe) to coordinate information for genealogists. It is broken down by region, country, state, county, etc. with hosts for each jurisdiction. This is a good



place to start to find out what is available, both online and off, for a particular area of the world, including databases created by volunteers, message boards, and references to websites, publications and record repositories.

COMPREHENSIVE DATA SITES

Here are a few of the largest and best sites for finding indexes, databases, transcripts and digitized documents that might mention your ancestors.

3. International Genealogical Index (IGI)

www.familysearch.org

The oldest digital database of indexed original records was created by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and is available absolutely free online. The IGI is a database of indexed



birth/baptism and marriage records, mostly found in original church records worldwide. To search the IGI, click on "Search" at the top of the page and then pick "International Genealogical Index" from the menu at the left. Once you find an entry, you can check the source and follow up by order-

ing a microfilm of the original record (this is important because there can be errors in any index, and because the original records often contain more information than can conveniently fit in a structured database).

However, you don't have to limit your search to the IGI, as the default search engine will also search the Ancestral File and the Pedigree Resource File (two types of compiled databases of family-linked records submitted by church members from their own research), and the transcribed censuses for the US (1880), the UK (1881) and Canada (1881). The census transcripts are useful starting places (assuming you've already traced your family back to an ancestor living in the US, Canada or the UK in 1880/1881), but you should be particularly careful with the two compiled databases Ancestral File (AF) and Pedigree Resource File (PRF), as these are user submitted and have not been verified for accuracy. Use them for clues only, and then try to track down records that can document the information contained in them.

Also, if you can't find the records you want online anywhere, or you don't want to pay high rates to gain access to them, you might want to try researching the old-fashioned way, by searching the records yourself. The LDS family history library has a huge catalogue of records from around the world available on microfilm that can be borrowed through your local Family History Center (FHC), for a minimal postal charge.

4. RootsWeb

www.rootsweb.com

Another large collection of free indexes, databases and transcripts is the RootsWeb network. This is not created by one agency, but is a volunteer-run network of sites, organized geographically, containing information submitted by

More Places to Start Your Research

users. Like the LDS's Ancestral File and Pedigree Resource File, this information is not verified for accuracy, so should be used with caution, but unlike those compiled databases, the RootsWeb databases are not collections of users'



family histories but transcripts or indexes of sets of original records such as vital registers, church registers, censuses, gravestone inscriptions and the like. The sources of the original information are usually clearly identified, so that you can verify the accuracy of the information yourself. Also, most of these data sets are accompanied by introductory descriptions that can help you understand exactly what the records contain and how to use them.

5. Ancestry.com

www.ancestry.com

Ancestry.com is the largest of the commercial (subscription-based) genealogy record sites, containing a wide range of record sets from



civil registration records and censuses to local histories and historical newspaper indexes. The US is very well-covered with indexes to nearly all the federal censuses and other records for every state. Its coverage of the UK is getting larger all the time, with the censuses for 1861-1901 complete for England, Wales, the Channel

Islands and the Isle of Man, and civil registration indexes for 1837-2000. There is also a new Canadian site, (including the 1911 census), and a handful of record sets for other countries such as Germany, the Netherlands and Italy.

6. Genealogy.com

www.genealogy.com

This subscription-based site is somewhat smaller than Ancestry.com, but it is also less expensive and more focused. Here you'll find images of all the US Censuses (with indexes to some years), digitized family and local



histories, a large database of passenger and immigration lists, and vital records from the US (they say they have the largest collection of 19th-century American marriage records). And, if you don't want to subscribe, but do want access to some of the databases found here, you can purchase many of them on CD-ROM.

LARGE REGIONAL OR COUNTRY-SPECIFIC DATA SITES

7. New England Historic Genealogical Society

www.newenglandancestors.org

This is the place to go for New England genealogy once you've exhausted the census and tracked your ancestors to the pre-1850 time period. Here you'll find transcribed vital records, digitized newspapers, indexes to old magazine articles and published family histories, and databases for probate records, tax rolls, marriage licenses, court files, church records, cemetery transcripts, diaries, pension records, military records and local histories.



They also have a collection of articles organized by New England state and country (Canada, England, Ireland), and special topics (African American research, computer genealogy, ethnic research, family health histories, genealogy and technology, genetics, hot topics, Mayflower research, military research, passenger lists) and complete online issues of their publications New England Ancestors, eNEWS, The Register, Newbury Street Press and NEXUS.

8. ScotlandsPeople

www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk

If your ancestors are from Scotland, you're a lucky person, as the records are impeccably kept, and accessible online (for a fee, on a pay-per-view basis). This site offers censuses (1841-1901), church records (1553-1854), civil registra-



tion records (1855-1900s) and wills (1513-1901), as well as some helpful articles and interesting background information about such topics as archaic weights and measures, handwriting, and old occupations.

9. Heritage Quest

www.heritagequestonline.com

This American site has images and indexes of all the US censuses from 1790 to 1930 (but some are

only indexed by heads of households). They also have indexes to thousands of family and local histories, genealogical periodicals and Revolutionary War records.

You can only access this data collection through libraries with subscriptions, so check with the libraries near you for access to this wonderful resource.

10. Research Program in Historical Demography

www.genealogie.umontreal.ca/en/

This is your best source for genealogical information for 18th- or 19th-century Quebec Catholic ancestors. It contains information extracted from the Catholic Church records of baptism, marriage and burial for the period 1621 to 1850 (baptisms and marriages up to 1800 only), as well as a small number of marriage con-



tracts, naturalization records and passenger lists. Basic information can be accessed for free, with more detailed information available to subscribers.

11. Federation of East European Family History Societies

<http://feefhs.org/>

If your ancestors originated in Eastern Europe, you'll find this site indispensable for your research. Here you'll find a growing list of databases of Eastern Europeans, both in North America



www.internet-genealogy.com

and in Europe and links to member websites with more information, helpful publications and databases.

VITAL STATISTICS RECORDS

Next to census records, the most important/helpful records for genealogists are those that provide information about the "vital events" of a person's life: birth, marriage and death. Some of these kinds of records have indexes or transcripts online. Try the following sites to find your ancestor's birth, baptism, marriage, death or burial information.

12. FreeBMD

www.freebmd.org.uk

This free volunteer-created site aims to provide an easy-to-search database of the national indexes to births, marriages and deaths for England and Wales from 1837 to 1919. It is nearly complete for marriages, especially for the period 1867-1910. Births for the same period are nearly complete, but for the earlier period (1837-1870) they are only about half done. Deaths are virtually complete for the periods 1837-1850 and 1870-1910, with years 1851-1869 about three-quar-



ters done. Progress on this database advances quickly, so keep checking back if you don't find the years you need well covered.

13. UK BMD

www.ukbmd.org.uk

In addition to the national indexes to births, marriages and deaths, local record offices in Britain have also kept their original indexes (on which the national ones were based). Each register office has control over their own local indexes and some are putting indexes

online. This site offers links to all of the available local indexes to births, marriages, and deaths (as well as some census records). Most of the links are to free sites. You'll find that there is good coverage for Bath, Cheshire, Lancashire, North Wales, Staffordshire, West Midlands, Wiltshire, Yorkshire, Cambridgeshire, Darlington Borough, Durham County, Isle of Wight, Kent, Newcastle, Tees Valley, Warwickshire, Wrexham, Derbyshire and the North of England.

14. FamilyRelatives

www.familyrelatives.org

This fairly new fee-based site offers access to all of the indexes to births, marriages and deaths in England and Wales for the period 1837 to 2003. In addition to the scanned index pages, which are rather cumbersome to use as you have to view each quarter year one at a time, for the years 1866 to



1920 and 1884 to 2003 all of the indexes have been transcribed, so they are searchable by name, date, location, etc. There are several options for payment, but the minimum charge is \$10 (USD) for 60 images (1 unit per index page, 2 units per transcribed index page).

15. 1837 Online

www.1837online.com

This is another fee-based site that offers access to the original scanned BMD index images for the UK (but none are transcribed). The main differences are that 1837 Online also has the indexes for overseas deaths, deaths, WWI, WWII and Boer War deaths, and the BMD indexes for 2004. In addition, the site offers indexes and images for the 1861 and 1891 cen-

More Places to Start Your Research



18. Family Tree Legends

www.familytreelegends.com

For indexes to American vital records, your best online source is the subscription site, Family Tree Legends (they also sell software by the same name). Here you can search late 19th-century and 20th-century indexes to births, marriages and deaths for 18 states



suses. There are several payment options. The minimum charge is about \$9 (USD) for 50 units (1 unit per index page, 3 units per census page).

16. FamilyHistoryOnline

www.familyhistoryonline.net

The United Kingdom has a great many active Family History Societies that have spent many years creating and publishing print indexes to all sorts of records, including baptism, marriage, burial, monument inscription and census returns. Now, these societies are putting their



indexes online through a joint venture, FamilyHistoryOnline, which offers searches on a pay-per-use basis. The database is particularly good for burial indexes and censuses, and for the counties of Cornwall, Somerset, Northumberland, Durham, Staffordshire, Suffolk, Hampshire, Lincolnshire and Yorkshire.

17. ScotlandsPeople

www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk

The website of the General Register Office for Scotland has indexes (pay-per-view) to the established church's registers of births and baptisms 1553-1854 and banns and marriages 1553-1854 and both indexes and images for the civil registration births 1855-1904, marriages 1855-1929, deaths 1855-1954 and wills 1513-1901.

19. United States Vital Records Information

<http://vitalrec.com/>

While this site does not provide any actual data, it does provide information about how to apply



for birth, marriage and death certificates from each US state and territory, most of which are not available online (but an index might be, see above).

20. Social Security Death Index

This isn't a website, but it's an important online tool that you should know about. The Social Security Administration in the US keeps records of all the applications for Social Security numbers (which contain much personal information), and a master death file for those who applied for pensions. The master death file is public information and searchable databases to this information can

be found on several of the sites mentioned previously (with minor variations in the search capabilities), including: FamilySearch, Ancestry.com, Genealogy.com, RootsWeb, and the New England Historic Genealogical Society.

Once you've found an individual in this file, you'll have the person's birth date, death month and year, last place of residence and social security number. You can then use the number to apply to the Social Security Administration for a copy of the person's application file.

21. Canadian Genealogy Centre — Civil Registration Information

www.genealogy.gc.ca/10/100606_e.html
For information about and links to



Canadian civil registration (births, marriages and deaths) indexes, a good site to try is the Canadian Genealogy Centre.

NEWSPAPER SITES

If it's stories you want, there's no better place to start than newspapers. Until the advent of digital databases, newspaper research was slow and tedious (but still rewarding!). Now you can search a wide variety of historical newspapers online. Two of the best places to start are the Godfrey Memorial Library and Paper of Record.

22. Godfrey Memorial Library

www.godfrey.org

Membership to this library (available to anyone, for a fee) gives you access to a huge collection of

More Places to Start Your Research

online resources including a wide variety of historical newspapers, mostly American, but also including a few from Canada, and the UK, all fully digitized and searchable by name and date range. It is particularly good for those seeking African American ancestors as several newspapers specifically targeted to African Americans are



included. You can also access American vital records indexes, gazetteers and maps, biographical publications, military records, prison records and others (some of these are available elsewhere for free).

23. Paper of Record

www.paperofrecord.com

This company is dedicated to providing subscription-based online access to digitized historical newspapers from all over the world. Their site says they have over 8 million pages available for searching and their list of newspapers (always growing) is especially good for Mexico and Canada. They also have many American newspapers, a nice collection from Australia and the UK, and a few



from Bahamas, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, and Spain. The only drawback to this site is that you have to choose a newspaper first, then search within it. You can't search multiple

papers at once (as you can through the Godfrey collection, for example).

MESSAGE BOARDS AND MAILING LISTS

You may also want to participate in an Internet community of genealogists. These come in many forms, two of the most popular of which are message boards, where you can leave messages for others to see, read messages left by others, and respond to ones that interest you, and mailing lists which you can join to have messages sent to you by e-mail.

24. GenForum Free Message Boards

<http://genforum.genealogy.com/>
Genealogy.com also hosts a large message board system called GenForum. Here you'll find mes-



sage boards dedicated to specific surnames, localities and topics. All are searchable and you can post a reply or start your own topic once you've registered (this does not require a subscription).

25. Ancestry.com's Message Boards

www.ancestry.com/share/

Ancestry.com has message boards dedicated to specific surnames, locations and topics as well. You can scan the most recent messages for items of interest (and post your own), or search the archived messages by keywords. Again, this feature of Ancestry.com's website is free to use.

26. Genealogy Mailing Lists on the Internet

www.rootsweb.com/~jfuller/gen_mail.html

For ongoing communication with other genealogists researching the

same location, subject or family name, you may want to try subscribing to a mailing list. This RootsWeb page lists hundreds of mailing lists you can join (for



free). Once you've signed up, messages posted to the list will be sent directly to you by e-mail, and you can respond or post your own message that will be sent to all the subscribers.

THE LIGHTER SIDE

27. Are you a Genealogist?

www.abaysview.com/RUGenie/Genealogist.htm

If you've checked out all of the above-mentioned websites, you've



earned a good laugh. Try this site for jokes and funny lists for the genealogist.



Janice Nickerson
is a professional
genealogist
based
in Toronto,
Canada.

Her website is
www.uppercanadagenealogy.com.

MyTrees Website

MYTREES, www.mytrees.com, is a Kindred Connections website, www.kindredconnections.com. Most of what you find on the website is supplied by users, either through the GEDCOM files they have submitted or through the data extraction program.

What this means for you, the visitor, is that you might find wonderful data about a family you are researching or you may not find anything!

It also means that you may access certain information for "free" and then a membership fee is required to get more. As stated on the website, "The concept of 'DATABASES FREELY GIVEN will be FREELY SHARED' is our policy. This organization is dedicated to the advancement of genealogical research, not to the selling of genealogical databases." This means that there is a fee to access the most detailed information and you have a choice whether to subscribe by paying the fee or you use your "own sweat equity" to extract data or submit your own GEDCOM files; both of which are ways to "earn" membership privileges.

Now that I've explained how the site operates, I'll discuss what MyTrees contains. There is so much to this

EXTRACTED VITAL RECORDS

The Extracted Vital Records contain records for Canada, New Zealand, the UK and the US, and some census records (though these are also listed under the country to which they pertain). You can search globally across the extracted vital records or you can choose the country for whose records you would like to look at and you will see a screen listing the available extracted records.

Basically, the choice of records is limited, it is a site relying on donated material and it is constantly growing as more people visit the site, submit their family trees and help extract data.

I decided to check out North Carolina to see what was available and found "North Carolina Marriage Records". I entered the name Farrow, since I have been searching on this name in the coastal counties. I got no hits. This does raise one of my frustrations, in that I wish there was a bit more description about the records; any description would be nice. You only have the title and then you go directly to the search engine. For all I know, the North Carolina Marriage Records only covers one western NC county.

You will also find on the search results page that you can click a link titled "LDS FamilySearch Results" and you will be taken to www.familysearch.org where you will see the entries for the surname you entered.

Note that when using the search engine, you are required to enter a beginning year and an ending year. If not, you will be reminded to do so. This is a little frustrating at first, since it seems to limit what you can search on, though quickly enough you will remember to fill in those blanks and use a broader range for a general search.

In addition, as you are searching on the site, regardless of which area, there is a "work list" of the already submitted queries maintained. This allows you to re-visit your searches.

ANCESTRY ARCHIVE

This is a pedigree-linked database that contains more than one billion names. Using this index, you can quickly



The MyTrees homepage.

site that it is hard to know what to start with!

The three main areas unique to MyTrees are: Ancestry Archive, MyTrees PLUS and Extracted Vital Records.

Now, let's talk about the three main areas, starting with the Extracted Vital Records section.

search through the pedigree information currently available. The information in the Ancestry Archive Index comes from two main sources. The first is the collection of pedigree files from submitters and other genealogists. The other source is indexed family history websites.

You may search in the archive for free, though, once you determine that there are names of interest to you, you will need to create and activate an account to see the data in pedigree-linked format with notes and submitter information.

MYTREES PLUS SEARCH

This is the area where you can either upload a GEDCOM of your family or you can "Build Your Tree" directly online. I submitted a GEDCOM file for my husband's family, Cortright from Pennsylvania and Matthews from Wales and Chicago.

It was straightforward to do. Once you submit your GEDCOM, it takes up to 24 hours for your family members to be included in the Master Index. Once in the index, others can search on your family and you can also take advantage of the MyTrees PLUS service.

By the way, just for submitting this tree, I earned a free month of access to the MyTrees website! Realize, though, that you can only do this once to earn free access.

Once in the index you can then use the matching service. This can be done for any GEDCOM that you have uploaded. You are asked a few questions, to determine how narrow or broad a search you would like to perform and then you push submit. Then, within minutes to a day, you will receive an e-mail stating that the search has been completed and to login to the site and click on "match results".

The above GEDCOM resulted in 39 matches in the database. When you look at the matches for a person, there are often many records listed.

Besides all the matching and searching options, there is much more that you can do including: adding new individuals and families, creating custom family tree charts, uploading pictures and biographies, posting family news and much more.

OTHER FEATURES

As I mentioned, there are some other areas on the website to check out:

- Research Interests: anyone can submit their research interests and these can be searched on or you can look at the interests arranged alphabetically. Additionally, every month MyTrees will search the Internet for your ancestor. When they find a qualified name, they will send you an email linking you to your ancestor.

- Surname Browse
- A resource area that includes: Professional Genealogists, Genealogical Libraries, White Pages, Forms and Data Converters (mostly age and calendars)
- A fee-based service for having your family tree printed in a professional-looking chart
- There is a family access component. You can upload your family tree and access to "living" individuals is restricted to "your family members". This is controlled by the family access password. You can also set up an on-line family reunion. A fun feature is that you can add family photos or other scanned images.

I did discover a few sections that are out-of-date such as the "What's New" section whose latest entry is 2004! A newsletter dated June 2005 is available (you can sign up to get the newsletter e-mailed to you) and the News Releases are from 2001!

I recommend that you check out the main page for the plethora of database and service options. I know this page can be overwhelming, as it has so much, but the columns under the headers really do help you navigate.

Once I started digging into the site, I found it harder to use the left-hand and top navigation, except for the obvious, so I frequently revisited the home page to get my bearing.

I know that I have not told you everything there is available to you at MyTrees and in the hit-and-miss world of genealogy, this is a website definitely worth looking at. You never know where that next great clue will come from!



The Matthews-Cortright family tree from the GEDCOM submitted to MyTrees.

Work List of 39 Match Queries	
Match Queries 1 through 10 of 39 queries:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Query 1: CURRY, JAMES from 1769 to 1801; CURRY, CHALLENGER, ; Born: ; in all volumes.	View Search Site
<input type="checkbox"/> Query 2: CURRY, ROBERT from 1774 to 1776; Born: ; in all volumes.	View Search Site
<input type="checkbox"/> Query 3: CURRY, ROBERT from 1801 to 1802; Date: ; in all volumes.	View Search Site
<input type="checkbox"/> Query 4: HAWKINS, FRANCES from 1805 to 1807; HAWKINS, ; Born: ; in all volumes.	View Search Site

Here are the matches for a GEDCOM submitted.

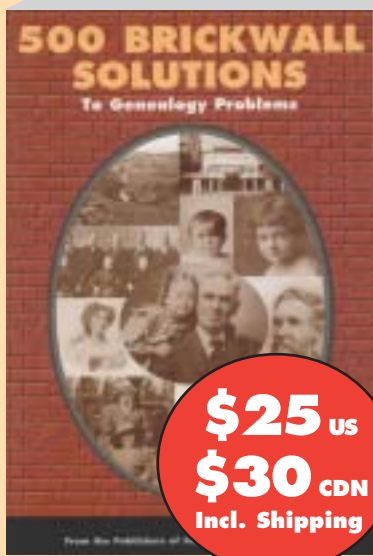


Diane L. Richard has been doing genealogy research

for about 18 years. She is now the Wake County, NC GenWeb coordinator, does professional research and can be found online at www.mosaicrpm.com/Genealogy.



Hit a Brickwall in Your Research? Family Chronicle Can Help.



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http://www.|

You want your website to be useful and not just another page of graffiti on the virtual walls of the World Wide Web.

TODAY, WITH SO many resources available to collect information on your ancestors, you may find yourself wondering what to do with it all. Hopefully you've entered your names, dates and sources in a software program and backed up the information. But what about all those relatives who are curious about what you've got? And how might you use the material you have to attract the attention of researchers who may be able to add to your information? The answer is to create a family history website.

There are many ways to create a site, but for the purposes of this article, we'll assume you have a site — either one you've developed or a free one. Instead, we'll focus on content. What should be on your site and how can you make it appealing enough to draw repeat visitors? You want your website to be useful and not just another page of graffiti on the virtual walls of the World Wide Web.

BEGINNING: THE HOME PAGE

Your site should be personal. You're talking to family. Assume you're welcoming long-lost relatives and introduce yourself. Sally Moore Koestler opens her site, www.sallysfamilyplace.com, this way: "Welcome, Folks! Come on into the parlor! Sit for a spell! And visit with the generations of. . ." (she lists her family surnames). Koestler thoughtfully chose images for her homepage. A photo of herself holding her granddaughter appears next to one of

Koestler's mother cradling baby Sally in her arms. There are extras included on this homepage such as a search tool, links to photos, information on family homesteads and to a guestbook — a great way for lost cousins to connect with each other. Koestler's homepage also contains the crucial contact link.

Even if you have all the essentials, you need to ensure that web surfers can quickly determine what your site is about. No one wants to spend more than a few seconds discerning the purpose of a web page. John Blair's homepage, www.blairgenealogy.com, gets right to the point. "This site provides information on Blair genealogy in general and the roots and history of my Blair ancestors who immigrated from Scotland to Vermont and New Hampshire in particular." He goes on to give more information, but visitors to Blair's site will immediately know if the information there is applicable. Your homepage will also need links to other pages on your site that may include family group lists, photos, oral histories or related links. If you have a lot of content, you may want to create a page that serves as a table of contents to guide your viewers to the information most relevant for them as Peter Ward does with his contents page at www.ourwardfamily.com/.

BE SEEN

To enable search engines to find your site quickly, include key search words on your homepage. These may include

Other ideas for content include family narrative, cemetery records, Bible records — anything you think family would be interested in.

surnames and locations, and key words such as family history, genealogy and ancestors.

Advertising is optional. Some websites, such as the Harlan family site, www.harlanfamily.org, have been around for nearly a decade without advertising. People find them by searching for the family name. Others advertise on Cyndi's List, www.cyndislist.com/submitnewlink.htm and other genealogy-related sites. People have found my site because I requested a link through a local USGenWeb site. See it here: www.rootsweb.com/~inclay/ listed on the right hand side under "Cindy Thomson".

BEYOND NAMES AND DATES

Of course, you'll want to list the names and significant dates (birth, marriage, death), but there is so much more that can make your site interesting. One great thing about the Internet for genealogists is how easily photos can be

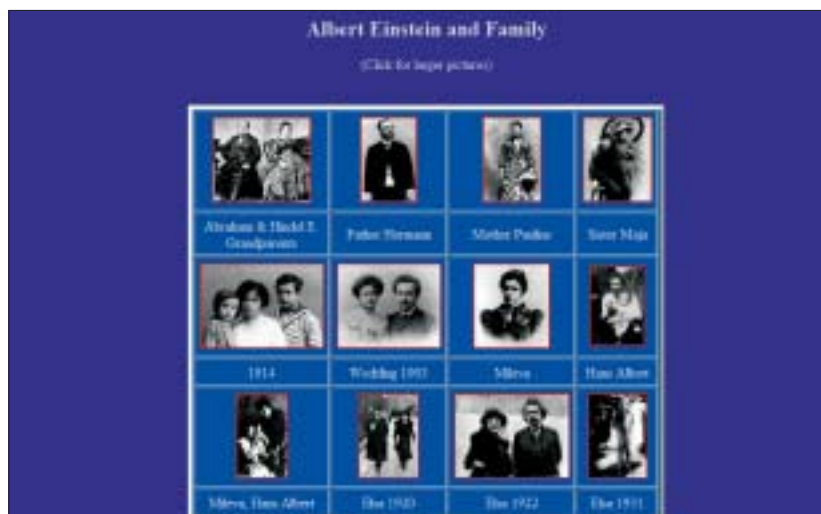
sites such as www.usgenweb.org/. There you will find links to state sites, and from there you can find various records to link to that will aid your visitors. Be sure to add links to local libraries and archives, as well as other information you may find useful, and your visitors will be happy not to have to search elsewhere for this information. The granddaddy of all genealogy link sites is Cyndi's List, www.cyndislist.com, with over 250,000 links posted. Spend some time finding those sites that relate to your family branch and point your visitors there. Specifically, you may want to check out:

- RootsWeb mailing lists for applicable surnames: <http://lists.rootsweb.com>
- Cyndi's List of US Census sites: www.cyndislist.com/census.htm#1790
- Census related sites worldwide: www.cyndislist.com/census2.htm
- the National Archives: www.archives.gov/index.html
- Canadian military records sites: www.islandnet.com/~jveinot/cghl/military.html
- Ship and passenger lists from Cyndi's List: www.cyndislist.com/ships.htm#General.

From each of these sites, you may find a specific site that is directly related to your family history that you will want to include on your website.

Besides accumulating Internet links for your site and gathering the family information and photos you already have, you may want to include new information that visitors can only obtain from you. This could include your personal research and writing, and is what makes your site unique. If you have memories of a historical event — anything from 9/11 to the Depression Era — include those. These personalized memories will make your site more interesting. Even a short tale about everyday life will interest future generations who have never experienced life without indoor plumbing, computers, cell phones and television. Sally Koestler's family ghost stories are a good example, www.sallysfamilyplace.com/ghosts.htm.

As technology advances, so will your genealogy research. John Blair developed the Blair DNA Project. The project has helped researchers who have traced their family back to Ireland, but hit a dead end. These people have roots among the Scots-Irish and know that they have ancestors in Scotland, but have not been able to make the connec-



Sharing old family photos is a great, and simple, way to put your family history online.

shared. All you need is a scanner to set up a gallery of old family snapshots. Be sure to post thumbnails that link to larger images so that the pages will not load slowly. A good example of family portraits can be found at: <http://www.physik.uni-frankfurt.de/~jr/physpiceinfam.html>. If your sole purpose is to share photos, there are several sites that allow you to do so easily. (See box on the next page.)

Other ideas for content include family narratives, cemetery records, information on places and cities where your relatives lived, cultural information, Bible records, census records, military records — anything you think family and researchers would be interested in.

To find content for your site, look at

tion. With DNA testing, something that is easily done by sending a mouth swab to a lab, some people have discovered that they are related to the Blairs of Scotland. Although this testing will not determine who the common ancestor was, it provides proof that a common ancestor is indeed likely. Needless to say, having a website gets this information to a large population.

Another item that will make your site accommodating for cousin researchers is a guestbook, where visitors can post their connection to your family. Such communication will help link branches of the family tree and may even help fill in gaps that you have in your own research. The guestbook will draw visitors to your site because of the information and contacts posted there.

BENEFITS

Whether visitors contact you by e-mail or through a guestbook, the experience is likely to be rewarding. Sally Koestler found a long lost cousin through her website and they now go together on annual research trips to Salt Lake City. Recently, a man contacted her who had restored the family's 1850 homestead in Tennessee and had photos of family tombstones from a plot on the property. Had Koestler not had a website, she may have missed out on those gems.

Cleta Terrell, www.thescenicroute.com, also met cousins because of her website. In fact, they decided to meet in person and held a family reunion in 2000. Her advice to those setting up a website is to keep your e-mail address current so you don't miss hearing from distant cousins.

If your site has cultural and regional information to offer, you may hear from unrelated persons also. Peter Ward, who lives in England, says that his site, with its regional history, appeals to visitors from the US and Australia who appreciate reading about the towns their ancestors came from and enjoy viewing the photographs he posted. Once you post information on the 'net, you never know who may appreciate what you have to share. His advice is to keep your site simple yet informative. "Instead of just listing your ancestors, try to make it into an easy to read family history story, and always show how you got to the information you are displaying."

Ward's advice speaks to the reason some people reject genealogy research

done on the Internet. Anyone can post anything, but that doesn't make it true. As John Blair advises, "Ignoring the information you find on the Internet is just as bad as accepting it at face value." However, if you state your sources, visitors can use your information as a launching point for their own hunt. Any information, whether it comes from a courthouse or a web page, should be verified. If your information comes strictly from family stories passed down, state that. It's still information worth reading.

FIND IT FAST:

A few sites to get you started:

<http://expertgenealogy.com/free/Software.htm>

<http://accounts.rootsweb.com/>

<http://www.tribalpages.com/>

www.tripod.com

Options for sites to share online photos only:

<http://www.flickr.com/>

<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/using/digitalphotography/shareit/gallery.mspx>

<http://www.amiglia.com/intro/>

<http://www.ancientfaces.com/>

Guidelines for publishing family history on the Internet:

<http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/comstandweb.cfm>

BORROWED ADVICE

Ward advises not to put personal information on your website. Many people make it a rule not to list information about living relatives. One thing Koestler points out is that putting your information online is easy to correct when necessary. She also recommends checking to see how your site looks on different browsers. Blair cautions that sites should be easy to read and distracting backgrounds and wild colors will turn off viewers. In addition, I would ask those of you who add music to your homepage to reconsider. Researchers are taking laptops to libraries now to do research and may be embarrassed if they forget to turn off the sound and a chorus of "Rock of Ages" blares from their computer.

Cleta Terrell advises taking the plunge. "Do it, it's fun and you never know what you will learn and who you will meet."

Cindy Thomson is a full time freelance writer from Ohio. Her articles have appeared in Family Chronicle, History Magazine and others. She can be found on the web at www.cindyswriting.com





English and Welsh Vital Records

VITAL RECORDS OF BIRTHS, marriages and deaths are one of the basic resources for tracing ancestry in England and Wales, as are parish registers, census returns and wills. On 1 July 1837, recording vital events in England and Wales

became the responsibility of the newly set up General Register Office (GRO), www.gro.gov.uk, under control of the Registrar General for England and Wales. Before "civil registration" was introduced, baptisms, marriages and burials had been recorded by churches in their parish registers, some from as early as 1538.

In other parts of the British Isles, however, civil registration started later. In Ireland, non-Catholic marriages were registered from

1 April 1845, with births, deaths and Catholic marriages following on 1 January 1864. Although civil registration of births, marriages and deaths didn't begin in Scotland until 1 January 1855, more information was actually collected on those vital events than in England and Wales.

place of birth, the child's name and sex, the names of both parents (including the mother's maiden surname), the father's occupation, the signature, description and address of the person giving the information to the local registrar and the date of registration.

Be warned, though; you won't always get all this information. If the parents hadn't agreed on a name for the child at the time that the birth was registered, then the certificate will simply state "boy" or "girl". If the parents weren't married, then the father's name and occupation were not allowed to appear in the records. (You won't get the date and place of the parents' marriage, as you do on a Scottish birth certificate.)

MARRIAGES

The marriage certificate (on a green form) contains the date and place of marriage, the names of the bride and groom, their ages, marital status (such as widower or spinster) and addresses, and the bridegroom's occupation. In addition, the certificate states the names and occupations of both fathers (but, unfortunately, gives no information on the mothers). It also gives the names of two witnesses, who may well be related to the couple who were to be married.

It's best, however, not to rely too much on the name of the bride's or groom's father being correct. You can spend a long time looking for the "father" of someone who was born illegitimate and may have invented the name of the supposed father purely for the marriage certificate!

DEATHS

The death certificate (on a form pre-printed in black) lists the date and place of death, and the name, sex, age and occupation of the deceased, together with the cause of death and the signature, description and address of the informant. With the death certificate of



Top: An old graveyard in Pembroke, South West Wales.

Right: The Holy Trinity Church at Stratford-upon-Avon, England. Before "civil registration" was introduced in 1837, baptisms, marriages and burials were recorded by church officials in their parish registers.



BIRTHS

The English and Welsh birth certificate (with the entry in the original register copied onto a pink pre-printed form) contains information on the date and

479			BIRTHS registered in January, February, and March 1900.			[ROB]		
	Birth	Age		Birth	Age		Birth	Age
ROBERTA Brown	Feelingwell	11 h. 502	ROBERTA Leonard	Wichita	6 h. 30	ROBERTA Mydman	St. Paul	11 h. 396
Irene	Buddsfield	8 a. 305	Leonard	Salford	8 h. 36	Nancy Princess	Canby	21 h. 477
Irene Brenda	Bradford	11 a. 854	Leonard	Bradford, Y.	9 h. 104	Nellie	Fourth Park	8 h. 311
Irene Emily	Chesler	8 a. 402	Leonard Eastase	King's N.	8 a. 488	Nellie	Hullham	2 h. 92
Irene Victoria	Loods	3 h. 654	Leonard William	Adrian	8 h. 618	Nellie	Leicester	7 a. 205
Isaac	St. Anap	11 h. 317	Levy Harold	Bradford	8 a. 538	Nellie Ellen	Stratbridge	6 a. 548
Isaac	Wichita	11 h. 377	Levin Ann	Chicago	11 h. 322	Sam Stanley	Chicago	11 h. 624
Isabel Kate	Brighton	2 h. 217	Lilium	Cardiff	11 h. 291	Oliver	Washington	6 h. 130
Isabella Jane	Aston	6 h. 416	Lilium	Manchester	8 h. 215	Oliver	Stoke T.	6 h. 383
Ivor Glynn	Wrexham	11 h. 202	Lilium	Blackhead	8 a. 226	Oliver Frances	Cardiff	11 a. 444
Ivor Rodman	Merrill Y.	11 h. 725	Lillian	Stoke T.	6 h. 243	Olive Frances	Plymouth	8 h. 353
Ivy Louise	Crofton	2 a. 241	Lillie Gertrude	Kankakee	2 h. 47	Oliver James	Alvinstoke	3 h. 567
Ivy Victoria	Highton	2 h. 130	Lillian May	Montpelier	11 h. 57	Oliver John	Plymouth	7 h. 621
Jack Burr	Leeds	1 a. 336	Lilla May	Essex	4 h. 579	Oliver	Darby	7 h. 621
James	Abby Z.	7 a. 93	Lilla	Medley	6 a. 347	Oswen	Rathin	11 h. 286
James	Prescot	8 h. 865	Lilla Gustin	Pulham	1 a. 542	Oswen Mary	Carnarvon	11 h. 419
James	Holyhead	11 h. 422	Lilla May	Swansea	11 a. 959	Oswen May	Llanelli	11 a. 1062
James	Stoke T.	2 h. 360	Lilly	Prestrich	8 h. 421	Oswald	Wrexham	11 h. 294

a man with a common forename and surname (like “John Smith”), it can be hard to tell whether you’ve got the right document. At least with a married woman, the name of her husband and his job is given in the “occupation” column.

DIGITIZATION OF THE RECORDS

The English and Welsh vital records have not yet been digitized, although their indexes have been. In August 2005, however, the Office of National Statistics, www.statistics.gov.uk, of which the GRO is part, signed a contract for all the births, marriages and deaths from 1837 up to the present day to be scanned, digitized and indexed.

Unfortunately, the 250 million records are to be scanned from existing microfilms, rather than the original records. They will then be digitized and transmitted to India for indexing — by people unfamiliar with English and Welsh names! This is due to be completed by 2008, after which the older records are expected to be made available online.

FREEBMD

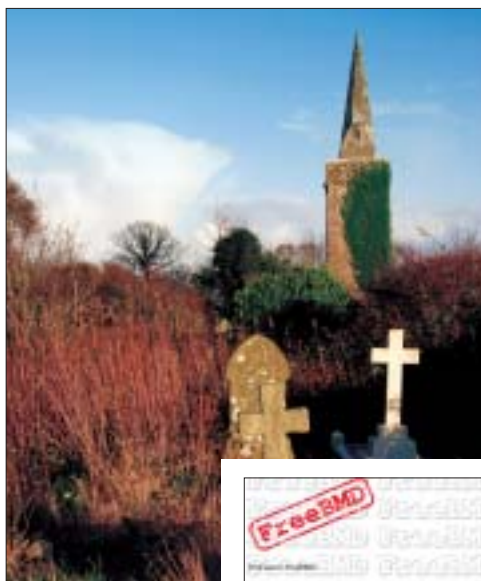
www.freebmd.org.uk/

In 1998, when there seemed no likelihood that the GRO vital record indexes for England and Wales would ever be computerized — never mind digitizing the records themselves — a group of volunteers decided to build a computer index themselves. So far, over 100 million index records have been added to the FreeBMD database. This mainly covers the period from 1837 to 1910, is accessible free of charge and is expected to be completed by 2007.

The GRO references that you'll find by searching the database are in the form "Chester 8a 445", which indicates that "Chester" is the name of the registration district, and that the vital record is contained in volume "8a" on page 445. The results are shown by quarter

(ending in March, June, September or December), as the original indexes were compiled on that basis. Once you've found the reference, you can then order a paper certificate, which is sent to you by airmail (see sidebar in this article on "How to Order Copies of Vital Records").

The transcriptions of the indexes have not been added to the database in successive years, so that, unfortunately, many years are incomplete. This means that if your search is unsuccessful, you



can't tell whether this is because the index entry you're looking for doesn't exist, or whether it simply hasn't been added to the database yet.

There are charts on the site, however, that show what percentage of birth, marriage and death index entries are in the database for each year.

Digitized copies of the original paper indexes (used by the volunteers) are also accessible free of charge. If the

An example of the actual digitized images that are available from the FreeBMD website.



The FreeBMD website features over 100 million index records, mainly covering 1837 to 1910. Better yet, it's accessible free of charge.

English & Welsh Vital Records

event that you're looking for has been indexed, you can easily click through from the result of your search to the page in the original index.

You can also go directly to the orig-

inal index images, but this is a rather long-winded process. You select from drop-down menus the type of record (birth, marriage or death), the year (1837 through 1910), the quarter and the fact that it's an A-to-Z search (although this is the only option you can choose). After each selection, you have to click on "submit query". As if this isn't enough rigmarole, you then have to guess which page the surname you're looking for will be on! It does seem like a lot of hassle, but then again, it is free of charge.

1837ONLINE.COM

www.1837online.com

This website had already made the images of the original paper indexes accessible on a pay-per-view basis before they became available free of charge through FreeBMD. Although you have to pay, it's a lot easier to search the images on this site, as you can search by surname (and forename, if it's a very common surname). In addition, the printed indexes cover the years 1837 through 1983, and the indexes from 1984 onwards are held in a fully searchable database.

It costs between £5 (around \$9 US and \$10.80 CDN) for 50 credit units valid for 90 days and £120 (about \$216 US or \$259 CDN) for 2,400 units valid for 365 days. Each page of the indexes costs one unit to view. In addition to the birth, marriage and death indexes, this site also holds indexes of consular, high commission and armed forces vital records (some starting in 1761), as well as the 1861 and 1891 census returns for England, Wales, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.

ANCESTRY.COM

www.ancestry.com

You can also search the FreeBMD database at Ancestry.com free of charge. Note, however, that the database goes under the name "England and Wales FreeBMD Birth/Marriage/Death Index 1837-1983", although you'll find little in

BMD INDEX.CO.UK

www.bmdindex.co.uk

Like 1837online, this is another pay-per-view site where you can view images of the original paper indexes from 1837 to 1983, as well as being able to search a database of the indexes from 1984 up to the present. The BMD Index



Internet Genealogy
Publisher Halvor
Moorshead's former cot-
tage in Stone's Green,
Essex, England. The
house was originally
two cottages dating
from about 1640.

CIVIL REGISTRATION IN WALES

SINCE 1536, Wales has been administered with England. In the early 19th century, some 300 years later, over half the population of Wales still spoke Welsh, a Celtic language closely related to Breton and Cornish, and many Welsh people spoke only the Welsh language. Despite this, all the civil registration vital records

were written in English.

Since 1963, Welsh birth and death certificates contain general information and column headings in both English and Welsh, although the details on the person who was born or had died are in English only. This is because this information is usually photocopied from the origi-

nal register entry. On the Welsh marriage certificate, even the column entries are only in English, as these form part of the original entry. Modern copies of pre-1963 registrations are also printed onto the bilingual certificates, although the original certificates would have been in English only.

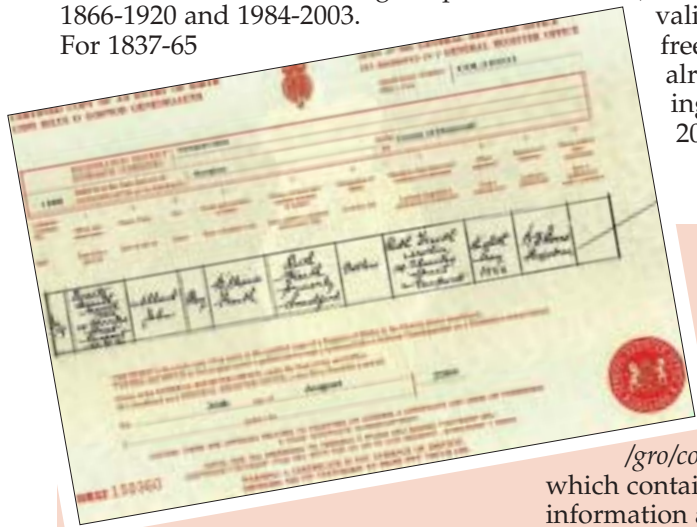
costs £5 for 50 credit units valid for 90 days or £14.95 (about \$27.50 US or \$33 CDN) for 200 units valid for a year.

In addition, you can take out an all-inclusive subscription to The Genealogist (BMD Index's sister site) for £5 a month (for a minimum of 12 months) for 50 units rising to £68.95 a year (around \$127 US or \$150 CDN) credit-free. These all-inclusive subscriptions also include access to various English and Welsh county census indexes being compiled by volunteers, census images for a few counties, parish records for London and five English counties, and London directory records.

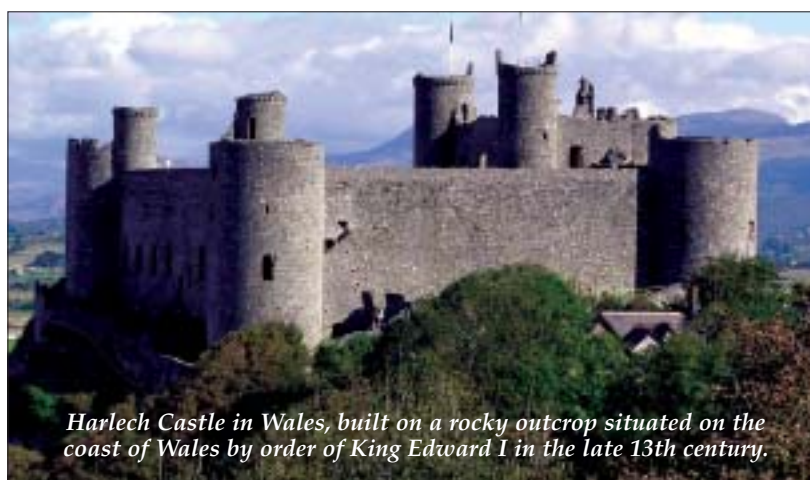
FAMILYRELATIVES.ORG

www.familyrelatives.org

This pay-per-view website differs from the previous two sites in offering a complete database of the birth, marriage and death indexes covering the periods 1866-1920 and 1984-2003. For 1837-65



IN ENGLAND AND Wales, births and deaths are recorded in local register offices, and the local registrars send copies of the entries to the Registrar General in London. Marriages can take place in churches, register offices or other designated places (such as hotels and country houses), with the records again held in the local register office and copies sent to London. (If the marriage took place in a church, then it too, will have a copy of the record.) You can order copies of the records either from the General Register Office (GRO) or the appropriate local register office.



Harlech Castle in Wales, built on a rocky outcrop situated on the coast of Wales by order of King Edward I in the late 13th century.

and 1921-83, the site provides images of the paper indexes. FamilyRelatives.org charges start at £6 or \$10 US (about \$11.80 CDN) for 60 credit units valid for 90 days and go up to £100 or \$180 US (about \$213 CDN) for 1,500 units valid for 180 days. Searching is free of charge (provided you've already bought units), but viewing a search results page of up to 20 names uses two units.

Alan Stewart is a member of the Scotland's People User Group and the author of Gathering the Clans: Tracing Scottish Ancestry on the Internet (Phillimore), available in North America from the David Brown Book Company (www.oxbowbooks.com/bookinfo.cfm/ID/59223).

HOW TO ORDER COPIES OF VITAL RECORDS

The GRO Certificate Ordering Service is online at www.gro.gov.uk

[/gro/content/certificates](http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates) —

which contains a good deal of information about the indexes and certificates. A birth, marriage or death certificate costs £7 (around \$12.60 US or \$15 CDN) when you order it online, provided you can specify the GRO registration. You can pay by MasterCard or Visa for the certificates, which are then sent to you by airmail. Alternatively, you can order certificates from the local office where the event was registered.

Some of the local register offices have online indexes, which you can find through the UKBMD portal site at www.ukbmd.org.uk. Click on "Local BMD" and you'll be taken to a list of birth, marriage and death (BMD) websites —

20 at the last count — which contain indexes to local registrations. These are ongoing projects, however, and few of the indexes are complete. You need to be aware that the registration reference used by the local offices is different than the GRO reference number, which applies only to the centrally held copies of the registrations.

As with ordering from the GRO, the cost of a certificate from a local register office is £7. For most of the local BMD websites, when you find an index entry for which you would like a certificate, you can print out a form from the site, and send this to the local office. To make your payment by credit card, you can enter your MasterCard or Visa details on the form. On some of the local sites, you can order online and pay by credit card.

Ships Ahoy: The Palmer List of Merchant Vessels

There's even a section on the history of naming the vessels, which every genealogist should make a point of reading.

THE PALMER LIST of Merchant Vessels website is a veritable goldmine of information for genealogists and family historians looking for information on the ships — sail and steam — that brought their ancestors to the New World.

It's unclear if the webmaster, a Michael P. Palmer of Claremont, California, maintains the site out of a love for genealogy, or more as an outlet for his passion of all things nautical. Regardless of his intentions, Palmer's website might be able to help you flesh out the history behind your great-great-grandfather's voyage aboard the *Allemannia*, a German steamship launched in 1865 that went from Hamburg to Southampton and on to New York. In addition to the ship's history — everything from when she was built, launched, sold and decom-

missioned. According to the website, "It is usually not possible to identify a merchant vessel positively by its name alone. Very few names given to merchant vessels in the centuries prior to the 20th are unique. Indeed, names with nautical references, names of ports, names of national symbols or rulers, names of people prominent in politics, the arts and literature, and in business, and common given names were frequently given to merchant vessels." Apparently *Britannia*, *Columbus*, *Liverpool*, *Mary*, *Mayflower*, *New York*, *Ocean* and *Victoria* were quite common vessel names, so if family legend has



1839 oil painting, by Carl Justus Harmen Fedeler showing the Bremen ship, Olbers.

missioned — many of the alphabetized entries include images, ranging from grainy early photographs, to majestic, full color oil paintings. Better still, many of the images are available in high resolution and available, free of charge, simply by e-mailing the webmaster.

There's even a section on the history of naming the vessels, which every genealogist should make a point of


your ancestors coming over on the *Mayflower*, check that it was actually the *Mayflower*, and not simply a schooner with the same name!

Palmer does give tips on the information that is required to identify a vessel, including the name of vessel; rig; the name of master; place, either of registry, departure, call or arrival; and a voyage date. He also includes a list of published sources that can be of assistance, including *Lloyd's List*, the *Shipping and Mercantile Gazette*, *Mitchell's Maritime Register* and the "marine intelligence" column of old newspapers such as the *New York Herald*.

It appears the site is no longer updated, as the last revision was in March 2001. Still, there are literally hundreds of ships listed in alphabetical order, so there's bound to be something of use to your research.




Genline: Swedish Sources for Swedish Roots



IF YOU ARE a family researcher and have Swedish ancestry, count yourself among the lucky. The Swedes were wonderful record keep-


Church of Latter-day Saints. The Mormons left a copy of these films in Sweden, and they now reside with the National Archives. The films themselves can be viewed at Family History Centers.

The advantages of having these records online are clear. You can access them at any time from your own home, with a computer and an Internet connection. Research is sped up as you can easily move between parishes and records without having to wait for the delivery of new films to your local Family History Center.



Genline's Swedish Church Records archive is available by subscription, and may be found at www.genline.com. To use the archive, you download a software tool, Genline FamilyFinder. This easy-to-use software allows you to search, view, zoom in and out, and print pages from the archive for your records. You can download Genline FamilyFinder for free. However, to have full access to the Swedish Church Records archive, you must purchase a subscription. There are a variety of subscription alternatives ranging from a 20-day evaluation subscription to a 365-day annual subscription. When visiting the site, register as a customer (no purchase required) in order to receive e-mail notification of special subscription offers, as well as their quarterly electronic newsletter.


The site is in English, but, of course, the church books are in Swedish. However, the records are really just tables of individual's names, place names and dates. Knowledge of Swedish is not necessary to use them. You might consider purchasing a copy of the new book, *Your Swedish Roots* (available from www.genlineshop.com), written by well-known Swedish genealogists Per Clemensson and Kjell Andersson.



ers and an exceptional number of primary historical records survive today. Not only do they exist, but a large number are now available online.

Genline* is a Swedish company that has taken on the monumental task of placing Sweden's historical church records online. The Swedish Church Record archive is now almost complete, and it contains almost 16 million clear images of original church book pages. The church in Sweden was a state church, and was mandated to keep the birth, death, marriage and census records for the country. The church also kept track of movements within Sweden and emigration from Sweden. These records are the single most important primary resource for Swedish genealogical research and extend from the 17th through to the 20th century. With luck, you may be able to trace your Swedish ancestors back 300 years.

To create the online archive, Genline has digitized the microfilms taken by the



**genline's company standard is to have the logo written in lower case, bold, italics.*

Household Census Records were basically inventories of the inhabitants of the parish.

This book was published in 2004, and it will help you to understand the structure of the Swedish Church records as well as provide translation for some of the common terms found in church books. The book is an easy read and explores the content of Swedish sources through case studies.

In this article, you will find a description of the most important kinds of records that can be found in the old Swedish Church Books and in Genline's Swedish Church Records archive.

The church was legislated to keep the vital records for Sweden in the year 1686. Some churches were in the habit of keeping records prior to the legislation, while others took a few years to conform to the law. The contents of these records vary between parishes and time periods, so the content summarized below is an approximation. To get started with these records, it is important to know the birth parish of one of your Swedish ancestors. If this requirement has been a brickwall for you, read on. New sources on CD are making it easier to uncover that information.

BIRTH AND BAPTISMAL RECORDS

The clergy kept the birth and baptismal (*födelselängd* and *doplängd*) records for the parish. While the content of these records may vary somewhat between parishes and between time periods, you can expect to find the following information in a birth/baptism record:

6. the date of the baptism
7. the names of the godparents and the name of the farm or village where they resided.

These records are organized chronologically. If you know the name of your immigrant ancestor, the date of birth, and the parish of birth, you should be able to find the birth record.

HOUSEHOLD CENSUS RECORDS

The Household Census Records, or *husförhörslängd*, were basically inventories of the inhabitants of the parish. They are extremely useful and important records. They were organized by place names, and usually an index to the volume can be found at the beginning or end of these church books. Once you find out where your ancestor was born from the birth record, you can select the appropriate volume of the *husförhörslängd* (organized by years), look in the place index of that volume for appropriate page numbers and search for your ancestor's family.

Once this record is found, you can expect to find the following information for each individual:

- name
- birth date
- birth parish
- occupation and/or relationship to head of household

In addition to the nuclear family, a household might include aged parents or those who helped with the farm or household duties.

The following information might also be found in these records:

- date individual moved into or out of the parish
- place individual moved from/to
- date of marriage
- date of death
- comments about disabilities or character (e.g. blindness, criminality, drunkenness, etc.)

You might even find these movements or events cross-referenced to other pages of parish church books. A page reference might take you to another page in the *husförhörslängd* for a movement within the parish, or it might take you to a page in the emigration, marriage, or death records. The *husförhörslängd* were living documents and kept up-to-date by the clergy. If someone was born, they were added to the inventory, and if someone moved out of the parish or died, they might be crossed off. Generally speaking, the

SWEDISH COUNTIES & PARISHES

GEOGRAPHICALLY, SWEDEN is divided into provinces or *landskap*. For administrative purposes, the country is divided into counties (*län*), which are roughly comparable to North America's states and provinces. The counties may coincide geographically with a province, or several counties may be included within a *landskap*. Ecclesiastically, each *län* is further subdivided into

parishes. These parishes were formerly called *socknar*, but are now referred to as *församlingar*. Vital records were kept by the parishes, and these parishes are grouped by the county in which they resided. The same parish name may exist in more than one county. For the purposes of research into Sweden's vital records the county and the parish are the important divisions.

1. the given name of the child
2. the given and last names of the parents
3. the occupation of the father
4. the name of the farm or village in which the parents resided
5. the date of the birth

husförshörlängd appear as church records around 1750, when the national central Bureau of Statistics began operations. Some parishes, however, kept similar records which predate 1750.

MARRIAGE RECORDS

Marriage records (*vigsellängd*) typically included the date of marriage, the name of the bride and groom, as well as the names of their parents. The name of the village or farm where they lived might also be included, as well as the occupation of the groom.

DEATH AND BURIAL RECORDS

The church kept records of death and burials (*dödslängd* and *begravningslängd*). When an individual died, the clergy would typically record:

- name of the individual
- occupation
- date of death
- place of death
- date of burial
- date of birth
- parish of birth, and
- cause of death.

The names of the deceased's parents might also be listed.

IMMIGRATION/EMIGRATION RECORDS

Since the clergy was responsible for keeping track of those who entered and left their parishes, detailed records of the comings (*inflyttningslängd*) and goings (*utflyttningslängd*) of individuals were kept. These registers recorded the name of the individual, the date they came or left, and the parish they came from or went to. When an individual emigrated from Sweden, the country or city name would be recorded.

FINDING YOUR ANCESTOR'S BIRTH PARISH

The Swedish Church Records are organized by county and parish. They are not indexed by name in Genline's Swedish Church Records archive, but given patronymic naming conventions, this name indexing would provide marginal value. In old Sweden, people were identified by their given name, their father's name (patronymic), their location and their occupation (see sidebar for more information on patronymics).

In order to get started with Genline, you really need to know the name, birth date and parish of birth for one of your Swedish ancestors. If you do not know the parish of birth, there are several

other sources that may help you to find that information. If you have a Swedish place name, but do not know if it is a parish, village, or farm name, then the CD *Svenska Ortnamn* (available from www.genlineshop.com) will be a helpful reference. This CD allows you to search place names. Matches will identify the location of the farms and villages and provide the associated parish and county name. This CD is only avail-



SWEDISH NAMING CONVENTIONS

IF YOU ARE doing genealogical research in Swedish records, it is important to understand that Sweden used a patronymic naming convention throughout most of its history. At birth, a child was provided with a "given name" by his or her parents. The last name of the child was derived from the first name of the father, and then followed by the suffix *-son* for a male child and the suffix *-dotter* for a female child. For example, if a man named Karl Andersson had a son named Lars and a daughter named Augusta, the son's name would have been Lars Karlsson (Karl's son) and the daughter's name would have been Augusta Karlsdotter (Karl's daughter). To follow this through to another generation, if Lars had a son named Sven, that son's full name would have been Sven Larsson (Lars' son). Wives did not adopt their husband's name upon marriage, but kept their own patronymic names. Female ancestors are much easier to trace in this system!

In the latter part of the 19th century, Swedes started to adopt family surnames. This practice began first in the urban centers. When Swedes did adopt family surnames, they may have just passed on their own last name to future

generations or they may have adopted a surname based on a location or perhaps nature. By the beginning of the 20th century, patronymics had generally fallen out of use.

Sometimes, individuals had more than one last name during their lifetime. Soldiers had a "soldier name" while they were in the military. These names were taken from military terms, place names or nature names. Usually the soldier returned to his patronymic name when he ended his military service. On some occasions, individuals retained their soldier names as family surnames, passing them down from generation to generation. If you find a Latinized name in your Swedish family tree, that ancestor was likely a member of the clergy or possibly an academic. At the time an individual was admitted to the clergy, he would adopt a "professional" name. In this instance, the name might be a Latinized version of their patronymic name or a Latinized version of their name and birth place. The suffix *-ander* was also used to indicate clergy. In this case, the name Björk might become Björkander and a patronymic name like Svensson might become Svenander.

able in Swedish, but is easy to use with a minimal knowledge of the language.

If you know roughly when your ancestor emigrated from Sweden, then the new CD, *Emibas*, (available from www.genlineshop.com) will likely be useful to you. The records for this CD were extracted from emigration records in Sweden's Church Books. The records are searchable on

many parameters. For instance, you can search by name or by parish and/or date. If you can locate your ancestor, the birth parish will likely be contained in the record. This CD is bilingual Swedish/English.

If you have only a name and birth date for an ancestor, then the CD *Swedish Census 1890* (available from www.genlineshop.com) may be of assistance. With this CD, you can search by name and restrict the search by birth date. Search results will return all matches by name and location for that census year. You can then click on a match to see the listing for the entire household. For each household member, the name, date of birth, and birth parish are listed. This CD is available in either English or Swedish.

If your immigrant ancestor left family behind in Sweden, the CD *Sveriges Dödbok 1947-2003* (available from www.genlineshop.com) might prove useful. This CD is roughly equivalent to the US Social Security Death Index, and contains records for those who died in Sweden between the years 1947 and 2003. If you can find the death record for a family member who remained in Sweden, this individual's birth parish might provide a clue to the birth parish of your emigrant ancestor. This CD is bilingual (Swedish/English).

Swedish genealogy is undergoing an online revolution. More and more records are being brought online, and more of them have English interfaces. If you have a computer and an Internet connection, you can now find your Swedish roots from the comfort of your home. Then you can travel to Sweden to visit ancestral places rather than archives!



Connie Whitmore is a representative of Genline in North America. She is also an amateur genealogist with Swedish roots. She was successful in tracing her own Swedish line back into the 17th century using Genline and other digitized resources.

SWEDISH SOURCES:

Genline

www.genline.com
Subscription access to a digitized Swedish Church Records archive. The Swedish church was a state church and kept the vital and household census records for the country. Over 15 million images of original church book pages representing 300 years of records.

SweGGate (Sweden Genealogical Gate)

www.rootsweb.com/~sweugw/
This RootsWeb site is Sweden's contribution to the WorldGenWeb project. It contains information useful to family research and provides links to helpful sites in Sweden and North America.

SVAR-Information Department of the National Archives of Sweden

www.svar.ra.se/
Sweden's National Archives maintains a website that provides access to various databases on a subscription basis. The databases of most interest to North American audiences are the ones which are complete and have an English interface. At this writing, those databases are the 1890 and 1900 Swedish censuses. These "censuses" are not primary records, but extrac-

tions of data from the Swedish Church Records for a given point in time.

DIS-The Computer Genealogy Society of Sweden

www.dis.se/denindex.htm
This website is home to the database, DISBYT, a collection of user-submitted family files representing 10.4 million records. You can search the database for free. If you become a member of DIS (for a nominal annual fee), you will be able to submit your own family file and have it matched with those submitted by others.

The Federation of Swedish Genealogical Societies (Sveriges Släktforskarförbund)

www.genealogi.se/roots/
The Federation of Swedish Genealogical Societies maintains a website that provides information pertinent to Swedish genealogical research, an online store and a discussion forum. Although the forum is primarily in Swedish, there is an English section. You can also post a query in English to the Swedish language forum. Many Swedes have English as a second language. Someone might help you with that old script you are trying to decipher.

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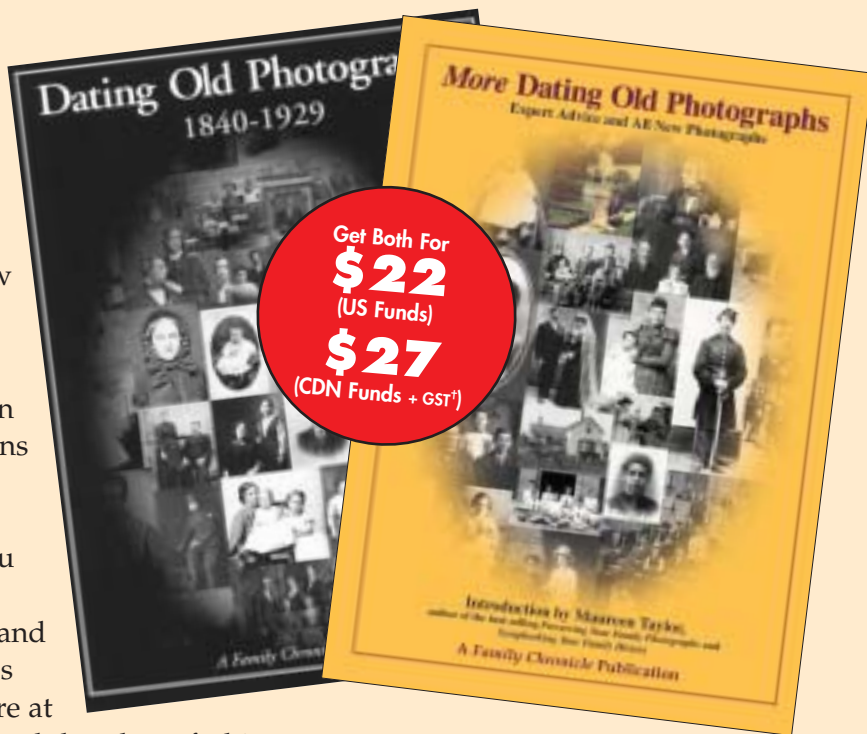
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— *Kimberly Powell, About.com*

Digging Deeper with Google

IN THE APRIL/MAY 2006 issue of *Internet Genealogy*, we shared a range of basic, but powerful, techniques available in Google and other popular Internet search engines. As demonstrated through the examples in that article (available for download at www.internet-genealogy.com), these search techniques — all free — can dramatically reduce the time spent searching for relevant clues specific to your family history. Those tips and techniques will serve as your foundation as you continue to “build your house” using more advanced features freely available to anyone with access to the Internet.

SEARCH WHILE YOU SLEEP

As you become more proficient in the use of multiple-keyword queries, the use of special operators such as “AND”, “OR” and the use of quotations, you will succeed in reducing the volume of query results from millions to a more manageable number. There are two factors, however, we should all keep in mind when surfing the World Wide Web.

First, the Internet is the most dynamic publishing medium in existence, changing and expanding with each page modified, or added, anywhere in the world, by anyone.

Second, Google and others are hard at work developing technology to better fully index this growing medium for our benefit. Both these factors work in our favor and should remind us to do one simple thing — submit the same search every month to see what new information may have surfaced since the last time we checked. Just as you labor over the minute details of your ancestors’ lives, so too does someone, somewhere, spend their time on an adjacent family, location or event that will cause your paths to cross at some point in the future.

Take a moment to think about the most important family lines that you frequently research. Now imagine that each morning you started your day with a 15-minute session on Google, submitting the exact same search requests. If your queries are specific enough, you would certainly turn up

something new on occasion and might even find a clue that could help you break through one of your brickwalls — yes, we all have them, even me!

Now, as great as this may already sound, it gets even better. Google pro-

SETTING UP GOOGLE NEWS ALERTS

1. Before sitting at your computer, jot down the topics you are interested in searching for on a regular basis and be prepared to define them as you would a well-crafted Google search.
2. Visit the Google home page at www.google.com.
3. Above the search box, click on the link for News (fourth from the left).
4. On the left side of your screen, you will see an icon of a small envelope and the words “News Alert”.
5. Take a moment to read the brief text on the Welcome page, then use the box on the right half of your screen to define what you want to search for and how often you wish to receive results.
6. After providing your e-mail and clicking the “Create Alert” button, Google will send a verification e-mail to the address you specified to ensure you are the legitimate intended recipient of these Alerts.
7. Check your e-mail inbox for a message from “Google Alerts”, then click on the first link to verify the News Alert request you just created.

Search Terms: Use this box to define your search the same way you would when submitting a standard Google query. Don’t forget to use your newfound knowledge about basic queries, as the same rules apply here. (Example: A News Alert for “genealogy” will yield many results, but few may be of interest. If you’re searching for a family from a particular village, you should use: *ditoto* OR *ditota + campobasso*).

Type: Google provides different types of Alerts including News, Web, News & Web and Groups. For those just starting out, I recommend selecting News & Web. This will tell Google to monitor news postings as well as content found on web pages matching your search criteria.

How Often: The options here are self explanatory; Once A Day, As It Happens and Once A Week. As you familiarize yourself with News Alerts, I recommend selecting Once A Day. You’ll be able to refine your definitions and, depending upon the volume of results, may choose to keep this option or change it to suit your preference.

Your E-mail: Specify a valid e-mail where you would like notifications sent. This can be updated in the future if you change your e-mail address.

vides a service called **News Alerts** which lets you define your most important queries once, and then puts Google to work around the clock to alert you when something new has become available. When one or more items appear to match your search criteria as defined, Google delivers an alert to your e-mail inbox with a headline and brief summary. No advertising, no unsolicited messages, just a clear, concise e-mail outlining the results of your query, as defined by you. Now, we can all truly search for our ancestors day and night, but not have to sacrifice our sleep to do it.

Establishing one or more News Alerts is simple and you can follow the step-by-step instructions featured in the box on the previous page. Keep in mind, however, that News Alerts function the same way as a Google search which you submit manually. If you establish an Alert definition using only your surname, you will likely receive a large volume of Alerts with no relevance to your genealogy, causing frustration and time wasted instead of time saved. This will be especially true if you are researching a more common surname. Be sure to use the simple techniques described in my previous article so you can quickly filter out unwanted results from your News Alerts.

SEARCHING A SINGLE SITE

Another useful command that should be in every genealogist's bag of tricks is the **SITE** command. This enables you to harness the power of the Google search engine, but focus that power on a single website. If, for example, you find a particular website to be of interest and have saved it as one of your favorites, you can use Google to search just that site to see what other secrets it might hold for you.

This can be especially helpful for sites dedicated to either a particular surname or geographic location. Some sites represent the collective efforts of many local volunteers posting headstone inscriptions, vital records, biographies, obituaries and other content of great interest to far-away online researchers. By using this single command, you can direct Google to scan the collection of pages that make up a specific website, then view the list of resulting pages to more

quickly determine if they are relevant to your search.

In the example below, you can see the three-part syntax for using this command:

1. Begin with the word *site*, followed immediately by a colon: *site*:
2. Immediately following the colon, type the address of the website you wish to search.
3. Placing one space after the website name, enter the keywords using the same techniques you would if submitting a general search from the Google home page.

In this particular example, Google is being asked to search the site *www.greaterwaterbury.com* (a website dedicated to this central Connecticut region) for any occurrence of the surname Judd. Google identifies eight individual pages on this site containing a reference to this surname. The results are presented in the same format as you have become used to seeing for general Google queries.

Now, let's combine two new features I've just described to demonstrate how they can easily lead to a breakthrough in your research with very little effort on your part. If you had established a Google News Alert regarding your interest in the city of Waterbury, Connecticut, you would, at some point, learn about the website used in the example above, as new content is posted to the site on a weekly basis by volunteers.

If family legend has it that your Great-Great-Great-Grandpa

No advertising, just a clear, concise e-mail outlining the results of your query as defined by you.

Using a combination of Google features can reward you with unexpected results, possibly a photograph of an ancestor you have never seen.

The screenshot shows the website **GreaterWaterbury.com** with the title "GREATER WATERBURY GENEALOGY & HISTORY". The main content area is titled "Waterbury CT Mayors" and features four portraits of mayors. Below the portraits, a text block states: "Since 1853, there have been 45 individuals to hold the title as Mayor for the City of Waterbury. Of these Waterbury CT Mayors, 19 have served more than one term. Following is a detailed list with footnotes for changes of power other than through the standard election process. Note this list also includes those serving as 'Acting Mayor' or 'Interim Mayor'." Below this text is a table of mayors.

No.	Office of Mayor	From	To	Affiliation
1.	Julius Hotchkiss	10 Jun 1853	10 Jun 1854	.
2.	David T. Bishop	10 Jun 1854	11 Jun 1855	.
3.	George W. Benedict	11 Jun 1855	09 Jun 1856	People's
4.	John W. Webster	09 Jun 1856	06 Jun 1857	Regular Union
5.	Henry F. Fish (1)	06 Jun 1857	04 Oct 1858	Democratic
.	Nathan Oikeman Jr. (1)	04 Oct 1858	13 Jun 1859	.

On the right side of the website, there is a sidebar with a "Sign In • Register • Home" link at the top. Below that, it says "Thursday, 16 Mar 2006". Further down, there is a section titled "Online Area Directory" and "Community Calendar". Under "Genealogy & History", there is a list of links: Cemetery, Census, Churches, City Directories, Court Records, Funeral Homes, History, Hospitals, Libraries, Maps, Military Records, Neighborhoods, Newspapers, Photographs, Photo Albums, Schools, Vital Records, and Web Sites.

Digging Deeper with Google

Hotchkiss was, at one time, the Mayor of the city of Waterbury, you could submit the following search after discovering this site:

site: www.greaterwaterbury.com
hotchkiss +mayor

This would search for only those pages on this site that contained the words *Hotchkiss* and *mayor*. The results would present two listings, both providing specific details to verify your family legend — and in this case, you would also be rewarded with a photograph of your prominent ancestor!

3. Foreign Language Interface (over 100).
4. International Google Sites (nearly 150).

While each feature is certainly worth exploring if you have an interest in international genealogy, this article will focus only on the first two.

1. Language and/or Country Specific Search

This first tool enables a user to submit a Google query using the standard search techniques described earlier, but limiting

results to only those pages written in a specific foreign language or hosted in a certain country.

In the example at left, the user

limits results to pages written in Italian and located in Italy. The search is for a surname with either of two variant spellings “*di tota*” OR “*di toto*” (note: the quotations are used to indicate this is a single-text string with an embedded space, not two separate words “*di*” and “*tota*”) AND *campobasso*, the name of the village where the family is known to have lived.

Although nearly all results listed will be in Italian, the Google results page includes a “Translate This Page” link which translates the content of the page from Italian to English. More so than other aspects of Google, using this feature will require some patience and trial-and-error, but if you have the time and willingness to learn, you may once again be rewarded for your efforts.

2. Translation

If you already have some text written in a foreign language, this simple tool can help unravel some of the mystery hidden in the documents of our grandparents or other ancestors. Whether it’s a simple caption written on the back of a photo from overseas or the formal language of a foreign vital records certificate, you can use the Google Translation tool for a quick (and free) conversion to English. There are just three easy steps to use this tool — first, type or paste the text you wish to translate into the box (as shown on the next page); second, use the drop-down menu to select one of nearly 20 translations you wish to perform; and third, click the “Translate” button.

You can limit your Google search to a specific language, or to websites hosted in a particular country.

BREAKING THROUGH THE LANGUAGE BARRIER

If you are one of the many family history enthusiasts in North America with ancestral ties to Germany, Italy, France, Spain, Portugal or other non-English speaking countries, you may be surprised to learn how Google can help you read foreign web pages and correspond with others in their native tongue.

Now, for those of you who may be fluent in another language besides English, I’m sure you’ll be quick to find fault with some of the translations and interpretations made by the automated Google tools, but consider how helpful these same tools can be for the rest of us. Last year, I was pleasantly surprised to receive a detailed e-mail from a researcher in Italy. The message, however, was written in Italian and the uncommon surname was one of the few recognizable words. Using cut, paste and Google Language Tools, the text of this message revealed a second-cousin researching the same family line, but his quest was to determine what became of the family after they departed from Naples bound for the Port of New York in 1904.

The above story is just one example of how Google Language Tools can be used by genealogists. Accessed by clicking on the small “Language Tools” link from the Google home page, there are four main components of this service:

1. Language and/or Country Specific Search.
2. Translation.

Although nearly all results listed will be in Italian, the Google results page includes a “Translate this page” link.

Google will quickly perform the translation and provide both the original text and a translated interpretation for your review. In the example, shown right, an English-language message was translated into Italian for posting to an Italian genealogy message board.

GOOGLE QUICK TIPS

The examples described earlier in this article are sure to become favorite tools for your online research, but we'll close with two "Quick Tips" that you can use both for genealogy and your every-day quest to find things online.

PHONE AND ADDRESS SEARCH

There is certainly no shortage of sites on the Internet where you can search for a phone number. As you might expect, Google has done an outstanding job of integrating this function with address, mapping and other services. I will describe this feature, but will not provide any specific examples that would require publishing someone's phone or address information.

If you're searching for a person's address and/or phone number, try simply typing their name and city into Google. Often, this will yield the phone, address and links to detailed maps and driving directions (the syntax is: first-name lastname city).

If you find a phone number on a scrap of paper, but can't recall who it belongs to, try typing it into Google and in many cases, you'll be able to back your way into finding the name and address that connect to that number (syntax is (XXX) XXX-XXXX — where the "X" is replaced with the area code and number you have on hand).

FINDING GENERAL THINGS LOCALLY

As genealogists, we are often challenged by not knowing the specifics for a geographic area where our ancestors may have lived. Google has a feature called "Google Local" — accessed from a link above the main search box — which provides a powerful means to search general topics on a local basis.

The screenshot shows the Google Translate web interface. The top section is titled "Translate" and has a "Translate text:" label above a large text input area. Below the input area, there is a dropdown menu set to "from German to English" and a "Translate" button. Below this, the word "or" is displayed. The bottom section is titled "Translate a web page:" and has a text input area with "http://" and a dropdown menu set to "from German to English".

Below the main interface, there are two examples of translated text. The first example shows the original English text: "Hello: I am an American of Italian descent. My great grandparents left Campobasso in 1900 and came to live in America. Their family names were 'Di Tota' and 'Orsatti' and many of their family". The translated Italian text is: "Ciao: Sono un americano della discesa italiana. I miei grandparents grandi lasciati Campobasso in 1900 e sono venuto vivere in America. I loro nomi di famiglia erano 'Di Tota 'e 'Orsatti 'e molti dei". The second example shows the original English text: "Hello: I am an American of Italian descent. My great grandparents left Campobasso in 1900 and came to live in America. Their family names were 'Di Tota' and 'Orsatti' and many of their family". The translated Italian text is: "Ciao: Sono un americano della discesa italiana. I miei grandparents grandi lasciati Campobasso in 1900 e sono venuto vivere in America. I loro nomi di famiglia erano 'Di Tota 'e 'Orsatti 'e molti dei".

If, for example, you are conducting research for ancestors from Oswego, New York, but have never been there and have no familiarity with the area, you can simply search for "cemeteries near Oswego, NY" and Google will provide the names, addresses and phone numbers — as well as a corresponding map so you can see the proximity of each listing to the area you are searching.

Another useful trick for Google Local — if your travels are taking you to a city and you expect to have some free time, you may submit a general query such as "genealogy near Hartford, CT" and Google will provide a listing of area businesses and attractions that relate to your subject of interest. And just because this is an article about genealogy, there's nothing wrong with using this feature to help you find hotels, restaurants and other attractions in that same city you plan to visit.

Happy hunting!



Dan Lynch is a technology marketing consultant and professional genealogist based in Connecticut. A frequent lecturer, he is an APG member and also serves as vice-president for the Connecticut Society of Genealogists. He can be found online at: www.danlynch.net



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ANCESTRY WEEKLY JOURNAL

www.ancestry.com/learn/

Editor: Juliana Smith.

Frequency: Weekly.

Archives: Yes, as of March 2006, Ancestry Weekly Journal content is archived at a "24/7 Family History Circle" blog, located at <http://blogs.ancestry.com/circle>

Also check www.ancestry.com/learn

Formats: Available in text and HTML.

You can also read the contents online at the blog and website referenced above.

Content: Given that it only launched in late March, it's a little early to categorize the Weekly Journal's content. It

looks as though most staples from its predecessor, Ancestry Daily News, have been preserved: instructional articles, tips from professional genealogists and from newsletter readers, and more.

What's Notable: This newsletter succeeds Ancestry Daily News. Some resources mentioned in the newsletter (maps, for example) are fully accessible only to fee-paying Ancestry.com subscribers.

Ads: Yes, for Ancestry.com products/services (typically in "Product Pick of the Week" section).

To Subscribe: www.ancestry.com/learn

CENTER FOR FAMILY HISTORY AND GENEALOGY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

<http://familyhistory.byu.edu/newsletteryears.asp>

Editor: Adam James.

Frequency: Monthly.

Archives: Yes, at <http://familyhistory.byu.edu/newsletteryears.asp>

Formats: This is not a subscription newsletter. Read it online (you'll have to download the PDF document) at the site listed above.

Content: "What's New on the Net";

Free Online Newsletters

"Workshops and Conferences"; "Around the World"; "Call for Papers"; "Education & Trips"; "Employment Opportunities".

What's Notable: This newsletter is published by the Center for Family History and Genealogy (CFHG) at Brigham Young University. The Employment Opportunities and Call for Papers sections, in particular, differentiate it from similar publications.

Note that the newsletter recently switched to PDF format. You can download the most recent issues at the website and find archived ones

(2005 and earlier) as web pages.
Ads: Yes, primarily for genealogy courses/travel.
To Subscribe: n/a

EASTMAN'S ONLINE GENEALOGY NEWSLETTER (STANDARD EDITION)

<http://blog.eogn.com>

Editor: Dick Eastman.

Format: I receive this newsletter in HTML format in my e-mailbox; every article is posted at the site (blog format).

Frequency: Daily (see "Content").

Archives: Yes, also searchable, at www.eogn.com/search

Content: The daily update includes a list of all the articles posted in the past week, with links to each.

What's Notable: In 2004, Eastman switched from a weekly publication schedule to a daily "blog". In April 2006, the newsletter, which had been delivered weekly with links to articles posted throughout the week at the blog, switched to a daily format. Further changes may be in store. Frequency aside, it's worth noting that Eastman offers a remarkable breadth and depth of content. Thanks to his extensive background with computers, there's plenty to interest Internet genealogists (news about online databases, online classes, software and more). Articles marked with a "+" are limited to fee-paying "Plus Edition" subscribers.

Ads: Yes, for EOGN and external products/services.

To subscribe: www.eogn.com/subscribe-standard.htm



FAMILY TREE MAGAZINE UPDATE

www.familytreemagazine.com/newsletter.asp

Editor: Diane Haddad

Format: Available in HTML and text versions.

Frequency: Biweekly.

Archives: Yes, at www.familytreemagazine.com/newsletter/archive.html

Content: Includes news, research tips and notes on "Worthwhile Websites". Also features teasers/links to several web-exclusive columns at the magazine's website; Nancy Hendrickson's "AncestorNews" (this column focuses on computer-related genealogy research); "Now What?" (family history questions and expert responses) and Maureen Taylor's column on family photo identification.

What's Notable: The "Speakers' Schedule" in each newsletter covers lectures and courses across the country (mainly by genealogy/family history experts affiliated with the magazine).
Ads: Yes, for *Family Tree Magazine* and external products/services.

To Subscribe: www.familytreemagazine.com/newsletter.asp

MY ANCESTORS FOUND: "NEWS YOU CAN USE"

www.myancestorsfound.com/news.htm

Editor: Jenni Johnson.

Format: Arrives via e-mail in text; version with graphics is available at the website.

Frequency: Monthly.

Archives: Yes, at www.myancestorsfound.com/news.htm

Content: This newsletter features announcements (for retreats, jamborees, conferences); "Query & Answer"; "Family History Center News". There also seems to be at least one "how-to" article per issue.

What's Notable: The "Query & Answer" reprints a research query submitted (for a \$30 US charge) and the related advice offered by one of My Ancestors Found's professional genealogists.

Ads: Yes, for products and services available from MyAncestorsFound.com.
To subscribe: www.myancestorsfound.com/news.htm

NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY (NEHGS) eNews

www.newenglandancestors.org/education/articles/NEXUS_eNews/enews_main.asp

Editors: Michael J. Leclerc and Valerie Beaudrault.

Format: This newsletter arrives via e-mail. You can also read it online at the site above.

Frequency: Weekly.

Archives: Yes, at www.newenglandancestors.org/education/articles/NEXUS_eNews/enews_main.asp.

Although the eNews does not have its own searchable archive, you can try the main "Site Search" feature to locate materials covered in previous issues.

Content: "New on NewEngland Ancestors.org"; "Spotlight"; "From the Online Genealogist"; "Research Recommendations".

What's Notable: This extremely readable newsletter offers a lot of information in every issue. Some of it is likely to interest members (or potential members) of the NEHGS in particular, with a focus on new databases, articles, programs, etc., offered at NewEngland Ancestors.org and at the Society itself. Internet genealogists will appreciate links to genealogy stories around the web and the "From the Online Genealogist" feature, in which the Society's Online Genealogist, David Allen Lambert, answers one research question each week. The newsletter also includes a "Research Recommendations" column; a "Spotlight" section detailing the research offerings of other state/local libraries, societies and archives; and reader write-ups on "Favorite and Black Sheep Ancestors".

Ads: Yes, for NEHGS products and programs.

To Subscribe:

www.newenglandancestors.org/education/articles/NEXUS_eNews/enews_main.asp
(click "Subscribe Now").

ROOTSWEB REVIEW

<http://newsletters.rootsweb.com>

Editor: Myra Vanderpool Gormley.

Format: Available in text and HTML versions.

Frequency: Weekly.

Archives: Yes (searchable), at

<http://rwr.rootsweb.com>

Content: "News, Notes, and/or Sites Worth Seeing" (including "Editor's Desk", "Tips from Readers" and "Using RootsWeb"); "Connecting Through RootsWeb"; "New User-contributed Databases"; "New/Updated FreePages and HomePages"; "New at RootsWeb"; "Mailbag"; "Humor/Humour".

What's Notable: RootsWeb is a massive, free genealogy site, supported by Ancestry.com. This weekly newsletter provides very useful updates about additions to the RootsWeb site plus research tips, readers' stories and more.

Ads: Yes.

To Subscribe: <http://newsletters.rootsweb.com>

UPFRONT WITH NGS (NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY)

www.ngsgenealogy.org/upfront.cfm

Editor: Gayathri Gopiram.

Format: This newsletter arrives via e-mail in text.

Frequency: Monthly

Archives: Yes, at <http://archiver.rootsweb.com/th/index/NGS>. Searchable archives available at <http://listsearches.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/listsearch.pl?list=NGS>

Content: The newsletter focuses primarily on NGS activities and programs, but you can generally also find a research-related article, plus news and press releases. Family reunion organizers may place announcements about their reunions in the newsletter, but none have appeared in recent issues.

Ads: Yes, for NGS BookStore Specials.

To Subscribe: www.ngsgenealogy.org/upfront.cfm



Erika Dreifus is a Massachusetts-based writer and a member of the New England Historic Genealogical Society. She is also editor/publisher of another free monthly newsletter, *The Practicing Writer*. For more information, visit www.practicingwriter.com



PLEASE HELP US WITH MORE FEEDBACK



IN THE FIRST ISSUE of *Internet Genealogy*, we asked our readers what they thought about the magazine through an online survey. We have taken many of the suggestions from the survey into account for the second issue. However, we are looking for more feedback to make future issues of *Internet Genealogy* even better.

We have set up a new online reader survey for *Internet Genealogy* using the Zoomerang website. There is a link to this new survey on our website at:

www.internet-genealogy.com/survey2.htm

Again, we'll ask you about 12 questions and the survey should take less than 10 minutes to complete. Your views and opinions are very important to us. Your answers are completely confidential — we will not know who takes part in the survey, so please, do not ask for responses when completing it, as we cannot help you.

We also welcome more specific feedback. Please send your comments to publisher@moorshead.com. We promise that we will read every one of your comments, good or bad.



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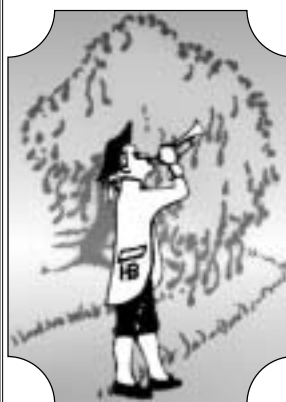
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Cornish Online Parish Clerks

CORNWALL, ON THE extreme south-western tip of Great Britain, is a land of mineral-rich ores and once-rich fishing grounds. On two sides it is bordered by ocean; on the third, by Devon. Her people have been miners since the Phoenicians visited the British Isles to trade for tin; they have been miners, farmers, anglers and sea-going adventurers.

Separated from the rest of England by the River Tamar and their Celtic traditions, Cornwall remained a unique entity through much of its history. Many place names retain the distinct Cornish language in their spelling and pronunciation: Ruan Lanihorne, Treweek, Perranzabuloe, to name a few.

Cornwall was once prosperous. It had the largest and richest tin and copper mines in the world. However, in the 1840s, Cornish tin mining collapsed as cheap imports arrived from South America. In the 1860s, copper mining collapsed too, leaving china-clay as the last pillar of prosperity. During this period, there were food riots as precious grains were shipped to areas where higher prices were paid, leaving Cornish folk to eat turnips, if they were available. People could not earn enough to buy bread; the average miner earned nine shillings per week — mines were closing everywhere — while people found themselves chasing jobs that were ever more elusive. Epidemics scourged the land, especially cholera in 1849, when 70 percent of the population of one village died within weeks.

Between the epidemics, lack of economic opportunities at home, and the lure of possible prosperity abroad,

combined with inexpensive or even free transportation, is it any wonder more than half the population — a much higher percentage than even the Irish — chose to leave the land they loved?

Fortunately for the miners, their skills were in demand elsewhere. Cornish miners (and those in related trades) spread throughout the world. Mexico, South America, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Canada, as well as the US, needed their expertise. Large Cornish colonies thrived in Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, as well as Nevada and California. Many more went to mines in Pennsylvania. Wherever they went, they took a special love for Cornwall, which they often passed on to their descendants.

Many of these descendants are now searching for information regarding their ancestors via the Internet. If you have Cornish connections, you are fortunate when it comes to genealogy-rich websites. There has been an explosion of such websites over the past few years, enabling many to follow their family trees back generations.

In 2000, three Cornishmen decided to form a volunteer group to help genealogical researchers online. They formulated a plan and recruited people already active in Cornish genealogy. The volunteers agreed to help, at no cost, to preserve records and make them available online, if possible, and to help educate people in the history of Cornwall. The organization became known as Cornwall Online Parish Clerks (OPC), as the volunteers hold

ARE YOU CORNISH?

If your name starts with Tre-, Pen-, or Pol-, you probably have Cornish roots. Celtic names such as Polkinghorne, Polprase, Penwith, Trethewey, Tregwin and Trelawney originated in Cornwall. However, those with “English” names — Allen, Thomas, Stephens — have deep roots there, too.

Many people do not realize Cornish folk moved to Wales, Ireland and northern England to work in various mines — when their descendants dig deeply, they find they are Cornish after all!

The remains of once-busy mines dot the landscape of Cornwall.

Cornwall Online Parish Clerks

many of the same records as parish clerks of yesterday. RootsWeb-award winning, the concept has now spread to eight other counties in the UK. The other British OPC Projects are Cumberland/Westmorland (www.cumberlandandwestmorland-opc.co.uk); Devon (<http://genuki.cs.ncl.ac.uk/DEV/OPCproject.html>), Dorset (www.dorset-opc.com); Kent (<http://kent-opc.co.uk>); Lancashire (www.lan-opc.org.uk); Sussex (www.sussex-opc.org); Warwickshire (www.hunimex.com/warwick/opc/opc.html); and Wiltshire (<http://homepage.ntlworld.com/david.brown6666/wiltsopec/>)

Each volunteer adopts a specific parish (or more than one) and decides what information is most needed for that particular place, turning to whatever sources they can. Currently, there are some 97 volunteers from all over the world who have taken on three-quarters of the parishes in Cornwall — and the number is growing. Some OPCs have established websites full of data. Others prefer to reply to individual e-mail requests, as some of their material is copyright

PARISHES

Here's one basic way to approach British governmental units: Counties equate to states in the US, and parishes, some quite small, others large, act as counties do in the US. Parishes have been the governmental structure of choice for centuries. Even earlier, administration was based on "hundreds". It's key to determine the relevant parish, as records were, and are, kept by that designation. Many parish records extend back to the English Civil War of the 1640s, and some even go to 1558. There are some 219 parishes in Cornwall, three-quarters of which are served by an OPC; they also may be able to help with inquiries for those not included.

restricted or does not lend itself to websites. One OPC has a database of more than 120,000 names, all interconnected across parish boundaries, and holds regular "Great Granny Hunts" at local libraries. The Cornwall OPC project has an agreement with both the Cornwall Record Office and the Church of Latter-day Saints, which have authorized transcription of their records; more than half of the OPCs are now engaged in that work.

To find a list of parishes and the associated OPC, together with website links, a map of Cornwall, and a helpful list of resources and specialized databases, visit

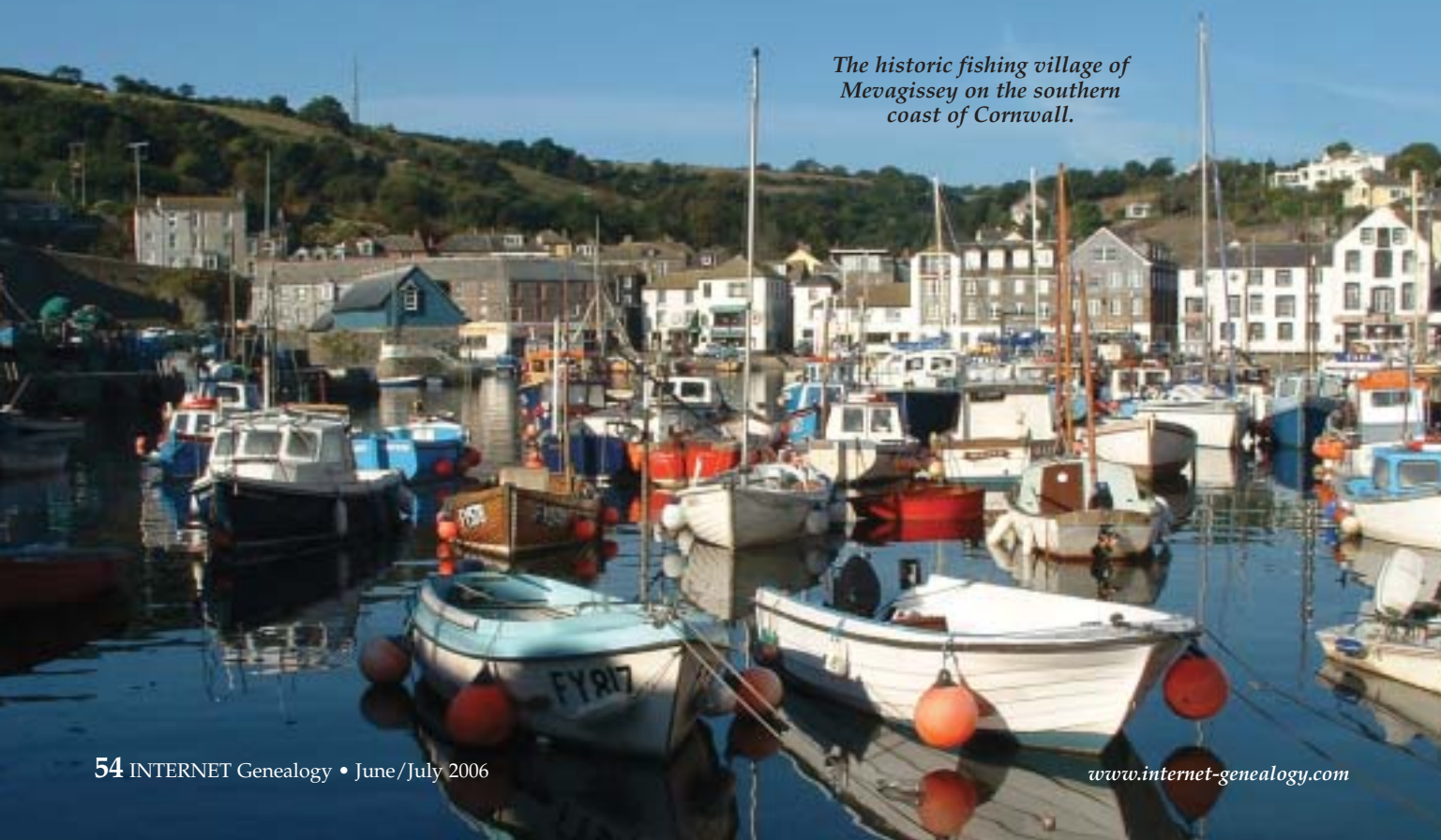
www.cornwall-opc.org.

Various OPCs are involved with other efforts to promote their goals; some are transcribing the West Briton and Cornwall Advertiser newspaper, including all births, marriages and deaths and court cases, along with interesting articles, from 1836 to 1887, on the Internet at <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~wbritonad>. others are transcribing the censuses:

1841 and '91 are complete, while 1851, '61, '71 and '81 are currently being compiled. Part of the FreeCENS effort, Cornwall Online Census Project has forged ahead of other counties in completion of their work, which can be seen at <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~kayhin/ukocp.html>. All participate on the Cornish Lists at Rootsweb, www.rootsweb.com. One list is for all things Cornish, the other strictly for genealogy. Listers are very willing to help researchers, too; after all, the motto of Cornwall is "One and All"!



The historic fishing village of Mevagissey on the southern coast of Cornwall.



ArchiveGrid Online

THE APRIL/MAY 2006 issue of *Internet Genealogy* introduced readers to basic information about ArchiveGrid, an archival database of primary source material drawn from thousands of libraries, archives, historical societies and special collections in the US and abroad. The preliminary review for *Internet Genealogy* was written before ArchiveGrid, www.archivegrid.com, went live on 1 March 2006 and prior to final usability testing, which resulted in some changes to the user interface, so the website is re-examined more fully here, with sample searches and screen-shot illustrations.

After a three-month period of free access, ArchiveGrid becomes a subscription service effective 1 June 2006. Individuals can subscribe for \$14.95 US per month or \$95 US per year. Academic and non-academic subscriptions are also available; institutions should contact the RLG Information Center (RIC) for more information, RIC@rlg.org.

For the benefit of readers who missed the original article in *Internet Genealogy*, ArchiveGrid is the new name for a resource previously known as Archival Resources and distributed primarily to academic research libraries. Redesigned in consultation with historians and genealogists, ArchiveGrid boasts nearly one million collection descriptions and online archival finding aids, along with contact information from more than 1,000 institutions, including many international collections. It incorporates all of the bibliographic entries (around 800,000 records) from RLG records in the National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections (NUCMC). In addition, ArchiveGrid has a growing collection of more than 65,000 online finding aids and expects its content to increase by 15 percent each year.

The Home Page of ArchiveGrid briefly describes the database and gives a sample list of contributing institutions. Users can begin to search immediately from the search query box in the upper-right margin. Search tips are located beneath the search box and by scrolling further down the page. Should further assistance be required, users can link to more complete information about how to formulate search queries.



SOME BASIC FACTS:

- Total number of records: Almost 1,000,000.
- Bibliographic records of collection descriptions: Over 800,000.
- Archival collection finding aids online: 65,000 full-text inventories.
- Types of materials: Primary sources including, correspondence, diaries, manuscripts, church and business records, printed matter, memorabilia, newspaper clippings.
- Subject coverage: All topics.
- What is excluded: Secondary source materials, such as published books or journal articles. Official US records from the National Archives and Records Administration such as vital statistics, census records or military service records.
- Search Functions: Keyword with advanced search syntax options.
- Number of contributing archives, libraries and museums: 1,000 institutions contributing collection-level bibliographic records and 166 institutions contributing online finding aids for archival collections.
- International in scope including Australia, Canada, England, France, Germany, the Netherlands, South Africa, the US and other countries.
- Multi-type including university special collections and archives, museums, national libraries, scholarly associations, historical societies and public research collections.
- Provider: RLG, a not-for-profit organization with more than 150 institutional members, including national libraries, archives, historical societies and special collections.

CONSTRUCTING SEARCH QUERIES

As with any research database, users need to construct searches carefully and experiment with different terms to see how it affects results, bearing in mind variant spellings (e.g., theater/theatre; Maude/Maud), word stems (e.g., imm-gra*) and ambiguous terms (Washington as person or place?; Richmond as a city in Virginia or Indiana?; Civil War — US or Spanish?).

**ArchiveGrid
boasts nearly
one million
collection
descriptions
and online
archival
finding aids.**

ArchiveGrid uses many familiar search syntax conventions based on Boolean operators.

ArchiveGrid uses many familiar search syntax conventions based on Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT), and a couple of lesser-known search constructs, to help refine search queries. Basic search tips appear in the left-hand margin of the search pages; users can also easily link to an overview of all search syntax functions.

The small size of the search query box does not allow sufficient space to view

queries longer than a couple of words. However, the entire query is re-displayed prominently at the top of the results page so researchers can review their search string. When a search



ARCHIVEGRID VISITOR'S GUIDE: SEARCHING TIPS

- **Multiple Words:** When you enter more than one word, for example, *yosemite muir roosevelt*, descriptions will match if they contain all of your words.
- **Find a Phrase:** To find a phrase, enter your terms within double quotes. For example, *"harlem renaissance"*.
- **Find Words Near Each Other:** To find matches when your search terms are near one another, put your words in quotes and follow with a tilde "~" and a number indicating how far apart the matching words can be. This technique is known as a proximity search. For example, to find the words *"john"* and *"booth"* within a span of four words, *"john booth"~4*.
- **Alternate Words:** To match any of the words you've entered, enter "OR" between words. For example, *antietam OR sharpsburg*. The symbol "|" can be used in place of the operator "OR".
- **Exclude Words:** To eliminate matches on a word, precede the word with NOT. For example, *"civil war" NOT spanish*. The symbols "-" or "!" can be used in place of the operator "NOT".
- **Word Variations:** Wildcard characters can help find different forms of a word. Use "*" to represent any number of characters; for example, *archiv** matches *archive*, *archives*, *archiving*, *archival*, etc. Use "?" to represent one additional character, for example, *archive?* matches *archive* and *archives*.
- **Increasing the Relevance of a Search Term:** If your search includes more than one word, and you'd like matches for one of the words to be given more importance, follow the term with the caret "^" and a number greater than 1. For example, to change the relevance ranking when searching the words *lincoln gettysburg* to highlight results that emphasize Abraham Lincoln's role, try *lincoln^4 gettysburg*.
- **Sophisticated Searches:** The logic of a search can be controlled with parentheses. For example *(antietam OR sharpsburg) AND maryland* matches descriptions that include the word "maryland" with either the word "antietam" or "sharpsburg".

Source: www.archivegrid.com

retrieves no hits, a page of search tips appears. There are no "did you mean" recommendations, but when a phrase search returns five or fewer matches, ArchiveGrid suggests "some more" (a proximity search) and "many more" (a word search) queries. Similarly, it offers "more relevant matches" (a proximity search) and "exact matches" (a phrase search) queries if a word search returns 100 or more matches.

Two alternate approaches to navigate through search results are provided in the left-hand margin, where results are summarized by geographic location or by archives. This is a handy device, especially for those planning research visits or making travel plans. At a glance, researchers can find out if there is a concentration of materials at a particular institution or in a specific geographic area. When the result set can be displayed on one page (20 or fewer matches) or is very large (25,000 or more matches), the archive and location result summaries do not appear.

Users can view results screen by screen, moving forward (next) or back (previous) but without any option to jump to the middle or end of all the returns. This makes the ability to re-sort results or use the left-hand groupings all the more useful. At present, ArchiveGrid does not give users the ability to save, e-mail or download search results. However, at the bottom of each screen, there is a link to produce

a "printer-friendly view".

Results are returned in order of relevance and can be re-sorted by date, title, archive or location via a drop-down menu in the upper right-hand margin. Sorting by date is problematical because the information is drawn from different fields depending on the type of source data provided by the institution; in practice, there are many instances where the materials span across years and the chronological sorting order is skewed. On a positive note, it is very convenient to be able to sort results by location or archive.

Each result consists of a basic resource description with links to contact information about the institution and to details about the collection (e.g., an inventory, guide or finding aid).

It is possible to conduct searches within many of the online collection guides to seek additional information.

SHORT ON IDEAS?

Go to the bottom of any screen and link to "ArchiveGrid Topics". This offers a multitude of possible subjects for further searching. Clicking on any of the suggested topics brings up a results page with additional terms organized into three categories: "People", "Groups" and "Places".

REGISTER YOUR FEEDBACK

In its debut month, nearly half of the respondents to ArchiveGrid's online survey identified themselves as genealogists (47 percent of 28,995 respondents). RLG will continue to enhance the functionality and content of ArchiveGrid, based on feedback from the user community. Currently, it does not offer any extended community services such as syndication feeds (RSS), live reference help or e-news alerts. However, its contents are indexed by other major search engines and subscribers can link directly to ArchiveGrid results (e.g., in Google these results are prefaced by "Find history in ArchiveGrid".)

Product information is available from the "To Order" link at the bottom of the home page, www.rlg.org/en/page.php?Page_ID=20881. Use the "Contact Us" link at the bottom of each screen to send RLG your comments and questions.

BEYOND ARCHIVEGRID

While ArchiveGrid's unified search interface brings together information from a multitude of collections, its coverage is not exhaustive. Researchers may also want to consult the commercial database, "ArchivesUSA," a subscription-based product of Chadwyck Healey/ProQuest, <http://archives.chadwyck.com/>.

In addition, there are many freely available national and international gateways to online archival finding aids. "Repositories of Primary Sources", a global index of more than 5,000 websites describing manuscripts, archives, personal papers and other materials or the "UNESCO Archives Portal" may serve as useful entry points for wider exploration when conducting your genealogy research.



Martha L. Brogan is a professional librarian with 25 years experience at three major research universities. She developed an interest in genealogy when she discovered intriguing artifacts upon her mother's death as chronicled in Family Values: Lessons in Material Culture, on the Internet at www.common-place.org. Ms. Brogan currently works as an independent consultant, conducting research and writing about trends in digital libraries.

A SAMPLER OF NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL GATEWAYS TO ARCHIVAL RESOURCES:

- ArchivesUSA: <http://archives.chadwyck.com/>
- Archival Research Catalog, US National Archives: www.archives.gov/research_room/arc/index.html
- ARCHON: UK National Archives: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/archon/
- Archives Hub: A National Gateway to Descriptions of Archives in UK Universities and Colleges: www.archiveshub.ac.uk/
- A2A (Access to Archives): Database of Archival Catalogs in England and Wales: www.a2a.org.uk/
- National Archive Database in Sweden: www.nad.ra.se/default.aspx
- Archives Canada: www.archivescanada.ca/english/index.html
- Repositories of Primary Sources: www.uidaho.edu/special-collections/Other.Repositories.html
- UNESCO's Archives Portal: www.unesco.org/webworld/portal_archives

Topic Summary

Here are some of the topics covered by ArchiveGrid.

Administrative agencies - Pennsylvania; Advertising; Aeronautics; Afro Americans - Civil Rights; Afro Americans - Music; AfroAmerican ay; AfroAmericans - Civil Rights; AfroAmericans - Music; Agriculture - Cash; Distribution Committee; American drama - 20th century; American drama; AfroAmerican authors; American literature - 19th century; American literature; American poetry - 20th century; American poetry; Andean; Competitions - United States; Architecture; Art - Collectors and collectors; Art and state; Art, American; Art, Modern - 20th century - U.S.; Artists - United States; Archival resources; Artists - United States; Art; Auschwitz (Concentration camp); Authors - United States; Authors and publishers; Authors, American - 20th century; Authors, American - Civil; Autobiography; Aviation;

Banks and banking - Alabama; Bergen Belsen (Concentration camp); B; Biography; Birkenau (Concentration camp); Bohr, Niels Henrik David, I - Faculty; Brigham Young University - Students; Brooklyn Museum; Brothers a; Buchenwald (Concentration camp); Business records; Business;

Coming Soon in

Family Chronicle

SPECIAL ISSUE: OLD PHOTOGRAPHS (JULY/AUGUST 2006)

SAVE YOUR PICTURES TODAY!

Are your family photographs falling apart, breaking into pieces or changing color? Old-photograph expert Maureen Taylor's tips and techniques will help preserve those precious pictures.

Marc Skulnick looks at using the modern-day technology of the Internet to help with organizing, digitizing, sharing and even identifying the subjects of your old photographs.



Ships of Our Ancestors:

We show you where to find information about, and pictures of, the ships that brought our ancestors to North America.



In a special feature, Halvor Moorshead dates reader-submitted old photographs such as this one from the early 1870s.

The features mentioned here are planned for future issues. However, circumstances may affect the final content.

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Halvor Moorshead
Editor & Publisher

Now Playing... Genealogy Podcasts

HAVE YOU HEARD any good podcasts lately? No, I didn't write broadcasts, *podcasts*.

In case you've been living on a deserted island, or perhaps just a bit out of touch with the latest in high-tech gadgetry, podcasts are audio recordings that can be downloaded onto a subscriber's home computer, laptop or portable digital audio/music player and can be played at anytime once they've loaded.

The act of making a podcast is commonly called podcasting and it is the creation and dissemination of audio, and sometimes video, files, usually in MP3 format. MP3 stands for "MPEG-1 Audio Layer-3"—a standard whereby audio files can be compressed with a negligible decrease in listening quality. It is the most popular of the compressed audio file formats. Because of their small size and high fidelity, MP3 files have become a popular way to store music files on both computers and portable devices. Over the past few years, the production and use of portable MP3 players has skyrocketed, with Apple's iPod one of the most popular and recognizable of the bunch. The word *podcast* is a blending of the words iPod and broadcast.

THE BASICS

You can listen to a podcast on any type of desktop or notebook computer (PC or Macintosh), so long as the computer has built-in or attached speakers, or an attached set of headphones. To listen to MP3s on your computer, you'll need an MP3 player. Most new PCs have Windows Media Player installed, which can play MP3s. Other players include Musicmatch (for Windows) and the popular iTunes (for Mac). Unless you have an older computer, it's unlikely that you will need any additional software to listen to a podcast.

(For example, Apple's iTunes is designed to search for, download and play podcasts). However, if desired, you can also download other software programs (some for free) to create, download, listen/subscribe to podcasts. For more information see the section on "Subscribing to Podcasts" on the next page.

podcasts now available on the web for your listening pleasure. Here are two of my favorites:

DearMYRTLE's Family History Hour

www.dearmyrtle.com

In 2000, Pat Richley (known throughout the genealogical community as "DearMYRTLE") began



Podcasts are audio recordings that can be downloaded onto a home computer, laptop or portable audiomusic player.

FINDING PODCASTS

A large number of online podcast directories exist to help listeners find podcasts of interest. One such directory is Podcasting News, www.podcastingnews.com/topics/Podcast_Directory.html. Most directories are searchable by keyword and include a link to the podcast's home website. The iTunes software automatically provides access to a searchable podcast directory, and on it you will find a list of additional podcast directories.

Currently, there are podcasts available on just about any subject or hobby. Users can download podcasts about politics, sports, soap operas and even church services, appropriately called Godcasts, www.godcast.org. And, fortunately for family history enthusiasts, there are genealogy

Internet radio broadcasts, first with a co-host, then going solo. Her DearMYRTLE's Family History Hour featured interviews with genealogy authors, researchers, archivists and software producers from around the world. Now, DearMYRTLE offers advice for family historians via podcasts. A new podcast is typically available weekly and includes Myrt's popular "MightyMouse" Tour — where she guides listeners through an online genealogical resource. To listen to the most recent podcast, go to www.dearmyrtle.com and click on the link next to the speaker icon. On the subsequent page, you will see instructions on how to "Listen to the Show", as well as download past shows. Just select the "click here to listen" option in the box

Genealogy Podcasting

labeled "Archive.org's DearMYRTLE.MP3 file location" and then click "Open" to listen or "Save" to download the file.



The Genealogy Guys

www.genealogyguys.com
"The Genealogy Guys", a.k.a. George G. Morgan and Drew Smith, are two avid genealogists who discuss all facets of family history research. The Genealogy Guys began podcasting in September 2005, and have covered a variety of topics during their weekly 30-minute program including technolo-

month and then follow the same steps to listen or download the podcast. You can also perform a search by typing a key word into the search box to find one of their podcasts that covers that topic. Also, be sure to check out their comments section and add your own, and join the "Genealogy Guys" Frappr site by adding your tag! (Frappr or "Friend Mapper" lets you see the zip code of friends or colleagues, and helps you to stay in contact with them). For more information about the GG Frappr site, visit: www.frappr.com/genealogyguys.

SUBSCRIBING TO PODCASTS

How do you catch new episodes of the genealogy podcasts noted above? Of course, you can visit the podcast's website each week, but it is much easier to "subscribe" to the podcast by using something called an RSS feed. RSS stands for Resource Description Framework (RDF) Site Summary, Rich Site Summary, or Really Simple Syndication, a special file format for syndicating web content. RSS was originally developed by Netscape (you may also see mRSS on some sites — which is a kind of RSS for referencing multimedia files designed by Yahoo).

An easy way to subscribe to these podcasts is to download the free iTunes application from www.itunes.com. Once you have iTunes on your computer, you can then subscribe to the RSS feed by opening iTunes and following these steps:

1. Select *Advanced* from the file menu
2. Select *Subscribe To Podcast*
3. Copy/paste the following code for the desired podcast, such as DearMYRTLE, www.ourmedia.org/media/rss/user/33644 or The Genealogy Guys, www.genealogyguys.com/rss
4. Click the OK button

Note that, iTunes is not the only software that you can use to subscribe to podcasts. For more information, see www.podcastingnews.com/topics/Podcast_Software.html.

The next time you're looking for something new to listen to while sitting at your computer scouring all those online databases, taking a walk or waiting in line at the store, why not download a genealogy podcast? Think of podcasts as another great tool for discovering what's new in the world of genealogy.

Think of podcasts as another great tool for discovering what's new in the world of genealogy.



gy options available to genealogists, organizing your research, genealogical-goal setting and preparing for genealogy conferences. Their weekly podcast is also a great place to get information about key happenings in the genealogical community, such as upcoming conferences, contests and other news.

To listen, go to www.genealogyguys.com and play the current podcast by clicking on the media player at the top of the page. To download the podcast to your computer, simply click the "pod" icon shown to the left of each show's date, or click on the "direct download" link beneath the description of each week's podcast and save the file to the desired location on your computer. On the first page, you will see all the latest podcasts. If you want to listen to other past podcasts, locate the "Archives" section of the page and click on the desired



Lisa A. Alzo, M.F.A. is the author of Three Slovak Women, Baba's Kitchen: Slovak & Rusyn Family Recipes and Traditions, and Finding Your Slovak Ancestors. Lisa teaches online genealogy courses for MyFamily.com, Inc. and the National Institute for Genealogical Studies. She can be found online at www.lisaalzo.com.

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Just the Facts: Check Those Sources!



YOUR
COUSIN
SENDS you

a GEDCOM file full of information but no citations. A website has transcriptions of a cemetery or you find your complete family tree online. Each of these situations is a boon and a bust. It's like being on the road to new discoveries, but no map to guide the way. These examples are exactly the situations that professional genealogists talk about when they say, "verify your sources". You've probably heard it before, but wondered what it means and when to do it.

Online genealogists know that there is a lot of information on the web, but not everyone knows how to evaluate it for accuracy. Historians talk about primary and secondary sources. A primary source is a document created at the time of an event by a participant or an eyewitness. Diaries fall into this category. Everything else is a secondary source, i.e. something created or reported later, like transcriptions or published genealogies. In these instances, it's easy to take a wrong turn by accepting the data without the proof.

An excellent article, "Using Primary Sources on the Web" from the Instruction & Research Services Committee of the Reference and User Service Association History Section in the American Library Association, www.lib.washington.edu/subject/History/RUSA/, offers concrete sugges-

tions for appraising material found online. It describes primary sources as including "letters, manuscripts, diaries, journals, newspapers, speeches, interviews, memoirs, documents produced by government agencies such as Congress or the Office of the President, photographs, audio recordings, moving pictures or video recordings, research data and objects."

Knowing the source of your information is the first step in assessing the reliability of the data. See if you can determine who posted the information online based on the URL or the contact info on the website. In particular, you want the origin of the material. Source citations should tell you where it was found. Be skeptical of any site that doesn't provide the details.

DIGITIZED ORIGINAL

You don't have to look very far these days to find sites with primary source documents. Websites like Ancestry.com offer subscribers access to images of census records and newspapers, giving readers the real document in digital form. Ellis Island lets users view original passenger lists. The Library of Congress, www.loc.gov, has millions of primary source documents online. There is no question where the information came from; the proof is on your screen.

TRANSCRIPTIONS

The phrase, "human error" comes to mind when it comes to transcriptions of original material. It's a rare copy that doesn't contain some sort of error, either typographical or oversight. In these instances, find the original to make sure what you see is correct.

PUBLISHED VOLUMES

Heritage Quest and Ancestry present genealogies and other published volumes in a searchable format online. That's great news for family historians, but it doesn't eliminate the problem encountered in printed works — typos, lack of citations or incorrect data. For instance, county histories often contain biographical material supplied (and enhanced) by the

subject of the piece and genealogies published in the 19th century lacked citations. It makes good sense for a researcher to trace the fact found in a volume back to the primary source. Double-checking never hurts and can prevent you from ending up in

the wrong family tree!

ONLINE DATABASES

There are databases, like Ancestral File, to which individuals add information without source notes. These have value *only* if you can find documentation for the stated facts. Use them as a guide, but never accept the data at face value.

What Detective Joe Friday used to say on that old television show, *Dragnet*, "Just the facts, Ma'am" can be applied to genealogy. Stick to the facts and you won't go wrong. Critically examine websites for citations and source notes using these suggestions. After all, you want your family history to be a reliable resource rather than a work of fiction.

Maureen Taylor writes about family history and photography on her blog, www.photo-detective.com



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